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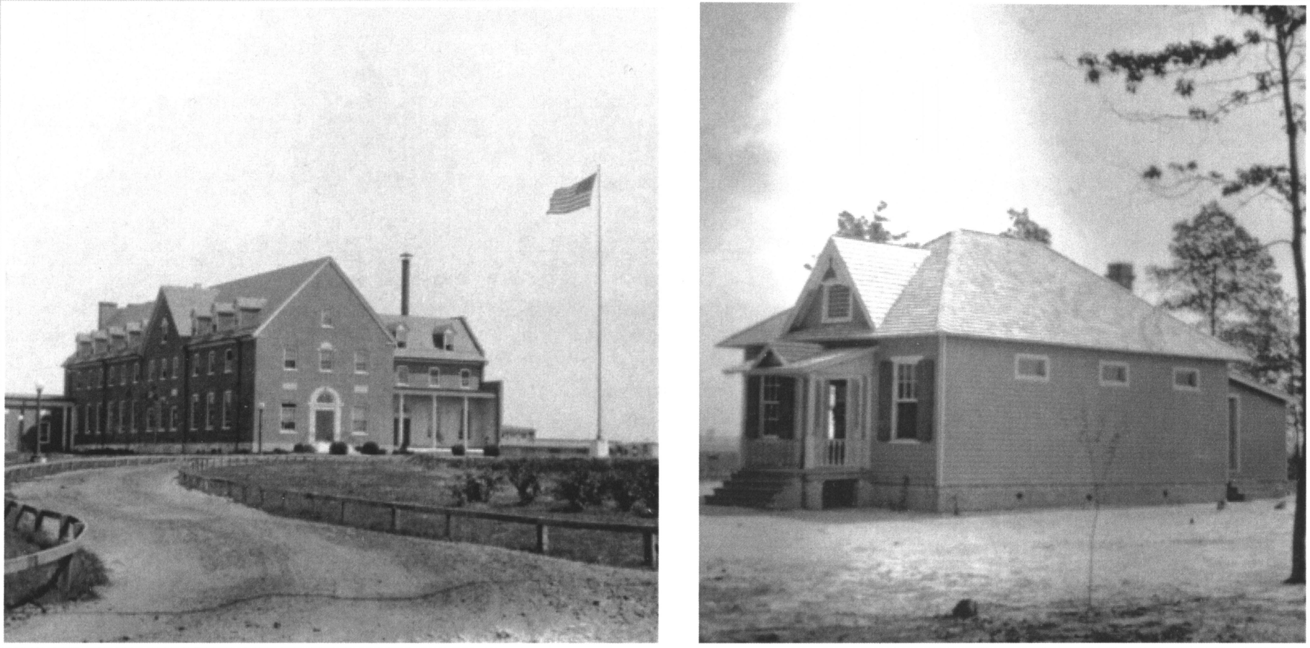
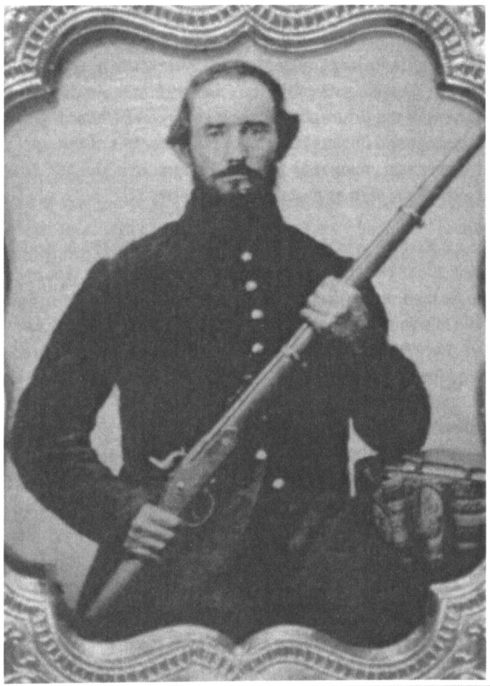
Shoreline

Vol. 25 • Fall 2018
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University



W.J. Holloway: Images of Education in Wicomico County

The Extraordinary Career of Captain Albert Laws



The Letters of Civil War Soldier Young H.E. Hitch, a 'Son' of Delmarva

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From the Director's Chair

By Dr. Creston Long,
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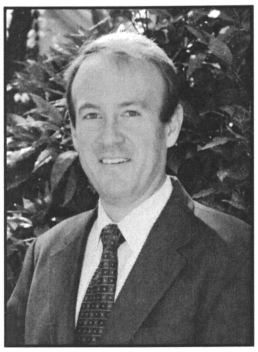

Dr. Creston Long

As the Nabb Center enters its third year in our new facility, I take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities that have transpired over the past few months. In the spring, we hosted our third National History Day regional competition for Somerset and Wicomico counties. This event drew almost a hundred middle and high schoolers who had devoted significant time to researching historical topics related to the theme of "Conflict and Compromise." They presented their work in interesting formats before panels of judges who determined which teams progressed to the state level competition. It was gratifying to see such enthusiasm for history among our area students, and it was validating that more students are taking advantage of sources at the Nabb Center to shape their projects.

This past July, in coordination with Maryland Humanities, we hosted our second week-long summer institute for teachers from across the state. Teachers developed oral history techniques to take back into their classrooms. After learning essential oral history practices, teachers interviewed area veterans who served from the early 1950s through the 1990s. The week was a major success, at once enhancing the skill set of participating teachers and expanding our archival collection of oral histories.

We had an exciting opportunity this summer to move forward with the processing of an important archival collection. Marianne Meyers, the Nabb Center's first Summer Archival Fellowship recipient, processed the James R. Trader Collection. Many readers will know Jim Trader's work in preserving and recording information about area cemeteries. Meyers processed the entire collection, which fills 21 cartons and about 24 feet of linear space, and prepared a finding aid that will enable family researchers, church historians and others to use this valuable collection.

Finally, I am happy to extend gratitude on the part of our staff for our newly expanded group of community volunteers. Earlier this year, about a dozen people responded to a call for volunteers to add to the stalwarts who have been with the Center for years. Over the past few months, they have been transcribing sources and contributing in various ways to our programming. For instance, many played a role in the development of the current exhibit on the first floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons, "Traveling Through Special Collections: Vignettes of Voyage and Travel," which will remain on display for the fall 2018 semester. We are grateful for this outpouring of community support.

This issue of *Shoreline* includes staff articles featuring the work going on in the various areas of the Center, student contributions and images from our spring fundraiser. Two feature articles focus on items in our archives: "A Year in the Life of a Butler: Isaac J. F. Handy's 1892 Diary," by Lee Ellen Griffith, and "The Letters of Civil War Soldier Young H. E. Hitch, a 'son' of Delmarva," by Mike Hitch.

Submissions

The Nabb Research Center is always interested in articles on the history, culture or heritage of the Delmarva region. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing for *Shoreline*, please send material, proposals, suggestions or comments to the attention of the "Newsletter Editor" as follows:

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1101 Camden Ave.
Salisbury, MD 21801-6860

Or by email to nabbcenter@salisbury.edu. Please include the words "Newsletter Editor" in the subject line.

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Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

CLOSINGS:
November 21-23
December 20-January 1

Shoreline

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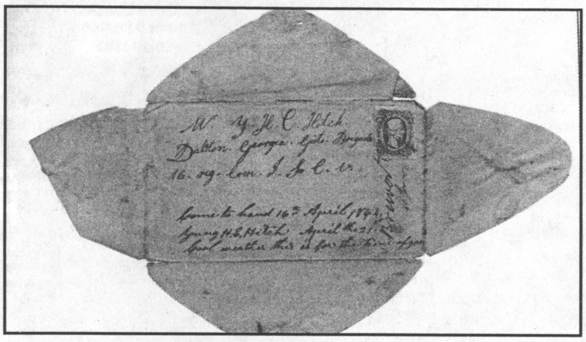
The Letters of Civil War Soldier Young H.E. Hitch, a 'Son' of Delmarva



Mr. Y. H. E. Hitch
Dalton Georgia Lytle Brigade
16 reg. Com. I. Jo. C. V.

Came to hand 16th April 1864
Young H.E. Hitch April the 21
Good weather this is for the time of

10

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The Extraordinary Career of Captain Albert Laws

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The Letters of Civil War Soldier Young H.E. Hitch, a 'Son' of Delmarva

By Mike Hitch

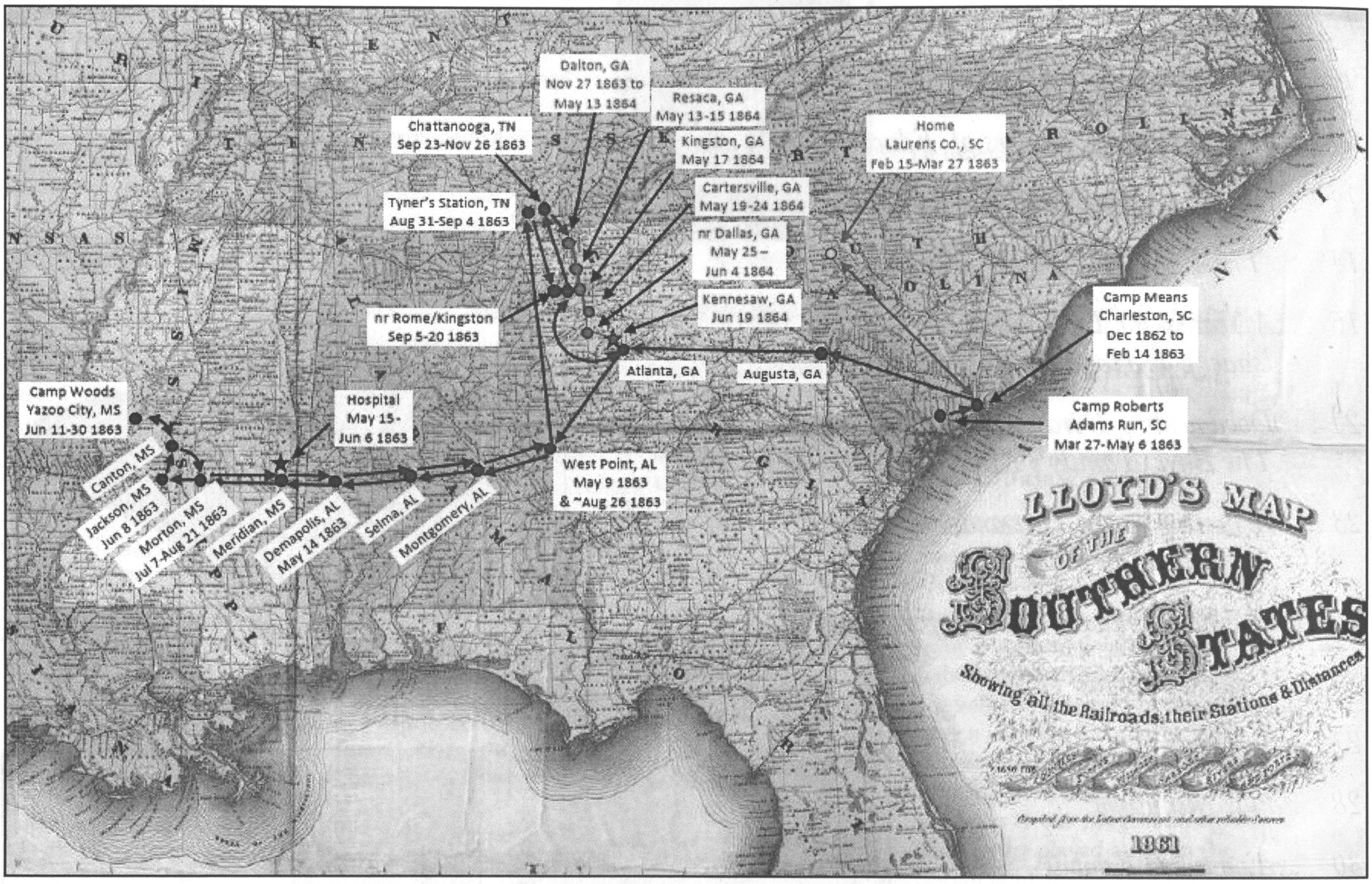

Dalton, GA
Nov 27 1863 to
May 13 1864
Resaca, GA
May 13-15 1864
Chattanooga, TN
Sep 23-Nov 26 1863
Kingston, GA
May 17 1864
Home
Laurens Co., SC
Feb 15-Mar 27 1863
Tyner's Station, TN
Aug 31-Sep 4 1863
Cartersville, GA
May 19-24 1864
nr Dallas, GA
May 25 –
Jun 4 1864
Kennesaw, GA
Jun 19 1864
nr Rome/Kingston
Sep 5-20 1863
Camp Means
Charleston, SC
Dec 1862 to
Feb 14 1863
Atlanta, GA
Augusta, GA
Camp Woods
Yazoo City, MS
Jun 11-30 1863
Hospital
May 15-
Jun 6 1863
Camp Roberts
Adams Run, SC
Mar 27-May 6 1863
Canton, MS
Jackson, MS
Jun 8 1863
Morton, MS
Jul 7-Aug 21 1863
Meridian, MS
Demapolis, AL
May 14 1863
Selma, AL
Montgomery, AL
West Point, AL
May 9 1863
& ~Aug 26 1863
LLOYD'S MAP
OF THE
SOUTHERN STATES
Showing all the Railroads, their Stations & Distances
1861

Figure 1: The Journey of Private Young Hitch with Company I, 16th South Carolina Infantry December 1862 to June 1864

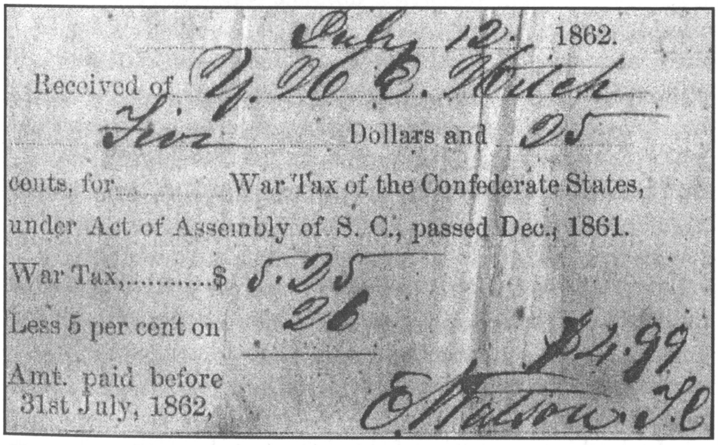
In an old Victorian house in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, there has been a 150-plus-year-old treasure sitting in an attic since the late 19th century. It has survived generations of family change and even a fire only to come to light in recent years. Ms. Elinor Mowbray lives in the house where the cache of letters and other documents was found, and as a retired paralegal with a penchant for family history, she immediately recognized the value of the collection to historians. The cache comprised old books and documents dating from as early as 1806 with the large majority being ephemera written during the American Civil War. These offer a rich and sometimes unique accounting of a soldier's life in the South during the war and the impacts it had on family lives. Ms. Mowbray has graciously donated the collection to the Nabb Center at Salisbury University for safe keeping and use of future historians, and this article summarizes some of the gems it offers.

Ms. Mowbray's great-great grandfather, Young Henry Elkanah Hitch, was born August 30, 1825, in Laurens County, South Carolina, the son of Joseph N. Hitch (1794-1827) and Rosanna Dalrymple (c1802-c1847). Joseph Hitch was born in Somerset County, Maryland, (now within modern-day Wicomico County) on October 10, 1794, to Revolutionary War veteran Louther (Loudy) Hitch (1750-1838) and his wife Betsy Douglas (1769-1840). The exact date of Joseph N. Hitch's birth was unknown to this writer until he was shown an old school book by Ms. Mowbray where the date was annotated. The book, titled *A Book of Arithmetic for Mr. Joseph Hitch under the Tuition of John S. Carwile, May 13th Day Anno Domini 1806*, is an excellent example of a very early schoolbook from the Federal Period. (This book also now resides at the Nabb Center thanks to Ms. Mowbray.) Louther moved his family to South Carolina in 1801 in search of more fertile farm land where his family grew into a well-respected lineage in the uplands of that state. Young Hitch became an only child orphan at age 2 when his father died in 1827. He married Mary Ann Edwards (1827-1880), daughter of John and Jane (Bradley) Edwards, in 1847. To this union, two sons were born: John Joseph Hitch (1847-1915) and Augustus Lucian Hitch (1853-1911), the latter of whom became the great-grandfather of Ms. Mowbray and who, in 1893, purchased the house where the cache of letters was found.

Young Hitch was a prolific writer and a good one at that. Many people of the time were under-educated and typically only semi-literate. However, one can tell from Hitch's writings that he was well-educated and articulate in expressing his thoughts. There are diaries from as early as 1846, weather reports, farm crop status updates, grocery run accounts where he bartered goods in Greenville, South Carolina, and other very interesting family correspondence. However, the most interesting part of the collection for this writer are his letters leading up to and during the Civil War.

Some of the items are unique, such as an accounting Hitch made of the South Carolina militia, which he joined in 1854. He listed all the men and officers who were part of Number 1, 2nd Battalion, 41st Regiment of the Beat Company dated January 14, 1854. Hitch was a 1st Sergeant in that unit and no other known listing survives of the unit's composition. The militia in South Carolina had been active since 1833 and, while not initially related to the Civil War, it became more important as that war approached. Hitch remained active with the militia and became captain of his unit in August 1862, until he joined Company C, 9th South Carolina Reserves as a private on November 17, 1862, "for 90 days." (Letter in the Private Young Hitch Collection dated Aug. 16, 1862, from Capt. S.D Thackston to Mr. Y.H.E Hitch stating, "You are hereby appointed Captain of the patrol in Beat Company No. 1…")

For Young Hitch and many of his friends and family, things had really escalated in the two years prior to his joining the reserves. South Carolina had become the first state to secede from the Union in December 1860, and not long after, the Civil War began with the firing on Ft. Sumter on April 12, 1861. By the end of 1861, all 11 Confederate States of America (CSA) had seceded, and there was a flurry of activity to assemble military units – at first, at the state level and then at the national level for the CSA. One interesting item in the collection is a simple receipt for services that this writer initially overlooked as just an unimportant piece in the collection. However, in examining the item in context, we see its underlying importance to the story. Dated April 8, 1861, it was just four days prior to the war's beginning at Ft. Sumter and tells us that Mr. Hitch was getting his gun cleaned and ready for whatever action or need it might face in the coming months. The item once dismissed as "unimportant" is eerily prophetic in its nature.



July 12. 1862.

Received of Y. H. E. Hitch

Five Dollars and 25

cents, for War Tax of the Confederate States,

under Act of Assembly of S. C., passed Dec., 1861.

War Tax,...........$ 5.25

Less 5 per cent on 26

Amt. paid before 31st July, 1862, $4.99

E. Watson T.C

Figure 2: Receipt dated April 8, 1861, where Young Hitch pays to have his gun cleaned and repaired.

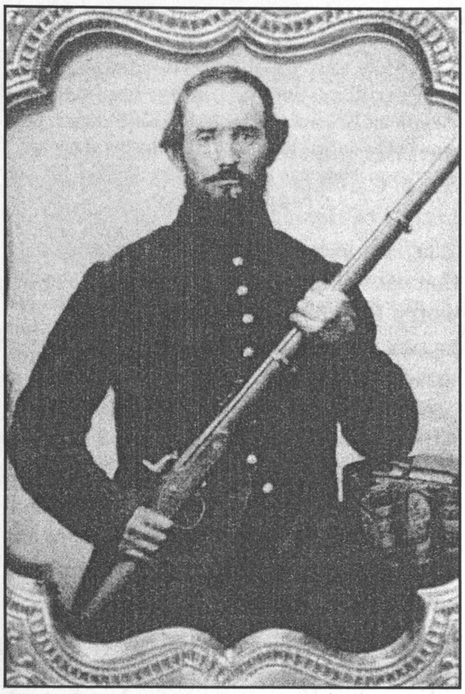


Figure 3: Young Henry Elkanah Hitch (1825-1864), photo taken circa January 1863 in his CSA uniform with his Enfield rifle musket he drew while a member of the 9th South Carolina Reserves.

Another example of the uniqueness of this collection comes in the form of a letter from William P. Edwards, Mary's brother living in Marshall County, Alabama, to Y.H.E and Mary Ann Hitch dated March 11, 1861. After expressing some brief family pleasantries, it illustrates to us more of the uncertainty and upheaval at the time. Edwards wrote in his own coarse style: "I want you to rite whither South Carolina has with severed from the union or not and what tha are doing ther. tha have caried thing big hear tho tha are sorter settling down like a warme of bees since Cing li wham has taken his seet. I don't hear mutch noyes nowe all camm as a lamb tha was a grait noyes that he shod not take his seet tho I heard that he had taken hit. Thes big men cood not get thos little men to goe and keep him from his seet."

By carefully dissecting his words, we can see a time when secession was a prelude to the war. He was asking for news whether it had happened in South Carolina and is referencing "Cing li wham" Moore (sic, Sydenham Moore), Congressman for the 4th District of Alabama at the time. Moore had been representative for four years before withdrawing from his post in January 1861 when Alabama seceded. What Mr. Edwards did not apparently know when he penned the letter was not only had South Carolina seceded but, by then, in order, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas also had seceded. So, Mr. Sydenham Moore had NOT taken his "seet"; rather, he had withdrawn from the U.S. Congress after his state had seceded on January 11, 1861. South Carolina had been first to secede and the six others followed soon thereafter. Several months later, after the attack on U.S. Army installation at Fort Sumter, they were joined by Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee to complete the formation of the CSA.

Private Hitch's participation in the 9th South Carolina Reserves ended in the 90 days that he had committed to, and then he continued service by enrolling with Company I, 16th South Carolina Regiment on February 13, 1863. This time, instead of signing for "90 days," he committed to service "for the War," an indefinite period of time that caused his wife and sons much worry. Before beginning this service, he was granted leave to go home for six weeks, not knowing that he would never again see his beloved family and farm in the foothills of South Carolina.

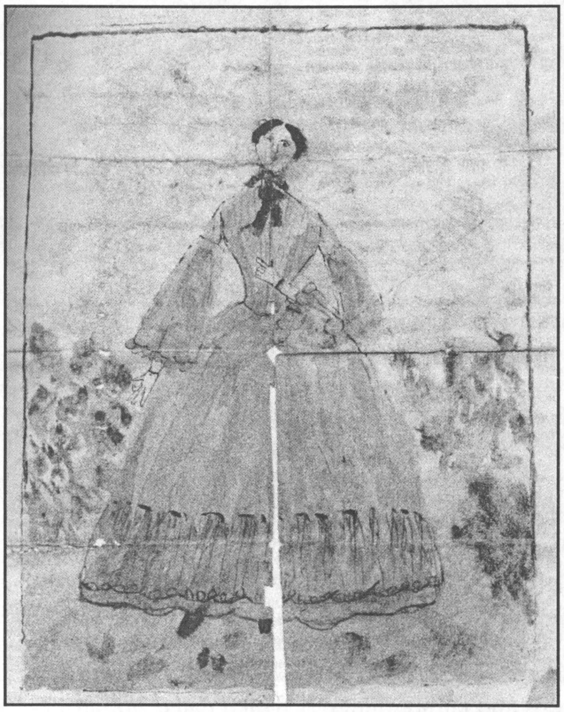


Figure 4: Young Hitch's doodling of his wife included with his June 8, 1863, letter.

It was during this time of transition that Hitch penned two undated letters (but ones that we know are from mid-January 1863). In the first, Young told his boys that his unit had drawn their guns, the Enfield rifle-musket. Young was excited and felt "... just like I could take a few pops at a Yankey with my gun. It is not near so heavy as I supposed it would be." In the second, he wrote, "Write soon & let me know if you got the salt & my likeness ..." The army had just issued Hitch his rifle, a British Enfield 1853 Model rifle-musket, that he judged quite well and he had gone to a studio to get his photograph (his "likeness") taken with his new gun, so that his family would have a memento to remember him as he served over the coming months. The photograph in Figure 3 is that "likeness" of Private Hitch and his rifle taken in January 1863.

The rest of the collection focuses on Hitch's letters to and from his wife and young sons as he traversed sections of the South with the 16th South Carolina. The letters are rich with content on camp life, the talk of diseases that killed more soldiers than actual combat, the occasional happy events, the sights and sounds he experienced, and the tragedies of the war.

We experience many examples of heartfelt love between Young and Mary Hitch. On June 8, 1863, he wrote from Mississippi: "This leaves me tolerably well at the present I want you to write to me, the 30 of April was the last letter I got from you. Direct your letters to Jackson, Miss. So I wish you & children well Both for time & eternity. Mary, as this may be the last letter that you may ever get wrote by me to you, if it should be my lot to get killed or die, I want you not to grieve after me at all for I hope when I am no more here on Earth that I will be at rest in heaven. Mary I may be deceased but I hope you will still pursue your course as you have been doing. Let us try to be prepared to meet God in peace. So I bid you farewell."

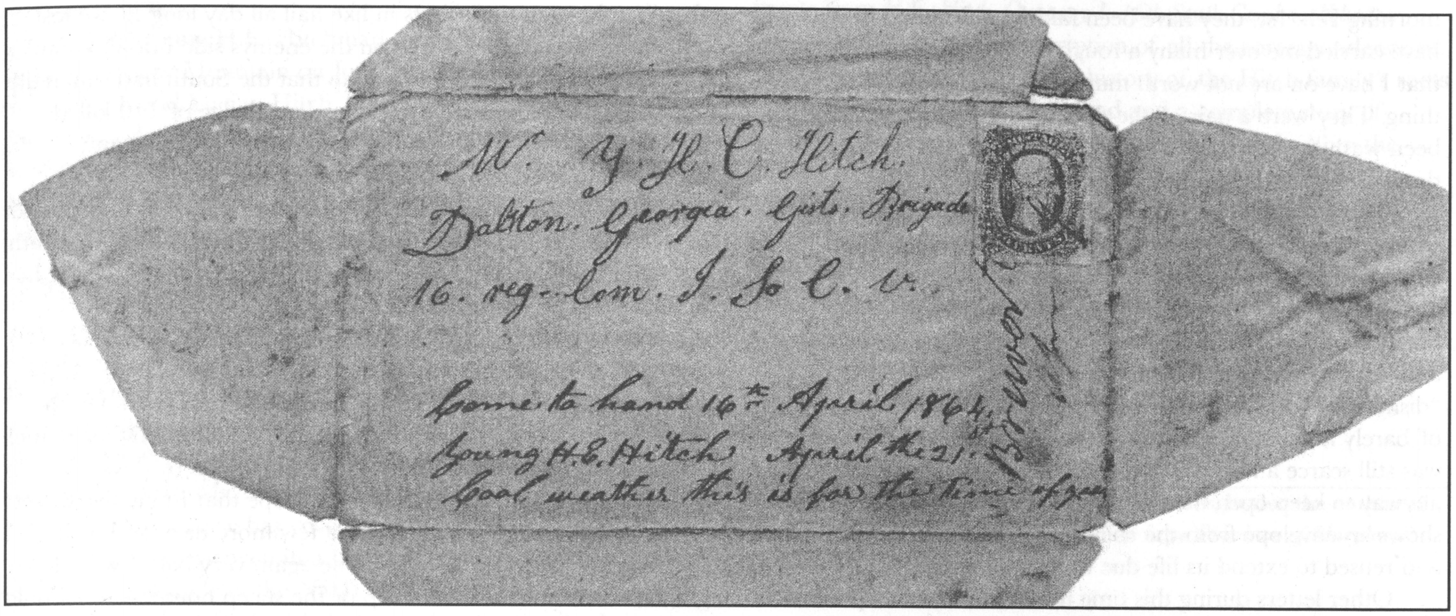
In it we see his longing for home and the slowness of communication in the mid-19th century, especially during the Civil War. We also see in him that specter of mortality that many soldiers in camp contemplated on a regular basis.

Besides the gravity of thought that Young Hitch had expressed in words, accompanying the letter was a drawing he made of Mary Hitch (See Figure 4). A "battlefield doodling," as these renderings are typically called by historians, Hitch chose to do his of his most cherished memory – one of his beloved wife. At the time, the 16th South Carolina was in Jackson, Mississippi, heading toward Vicksburg to try and help the rebel army repel the Union army that had besieged that city. The South Carolina soldiers would be too late, as Vicksburg was to surrender four weeks later.

Paper, pens, and ink became very scarce during the war and the collection reveals this where Hitch began writing home on used paper from field hospitals and the like. In several letters, he wrote between the columns of older listings of soldiers with various ailments confined to a field hospital, so the reader can glean not only the happenings with regard to Hitch's letter at the time, but we can also indirectly see what was happening to his fellow soldiers.

On the march towards Vicksburg, Private Hitch contracted the measles on June 30, 1863, and was himself confined to a field hospital, which was actually a private residence converted into a makeshift hospital. While Hitch was convalescing at Mr. Odom's house near Morton Station, Mississippi, the main Southern forces were repelled back from Vicksburg toward Jackson, thus leaving this hospital briefly behind the enemy lines. However, since the Union army was leaving the area quickly and the hospital was off the main roads by several miles, it was likely never discovered or it was possible that Hitch and his fellow hospital mates may have become POWs. Measles was often a lethal disease during the Civil War, and Hitch took some time to recover. About six weeks later, on August 20, 1863, he wrote to his son, when he was back in the hospital suffering from some of its lingering symptoms:

> Dear son,
>
> I take this opportunity of droping you a short letter to inform you where I am and how I am a getting along. I am



Mr. Y. H. E. Hitch.
Dalton. Georgia. Gists. Brigade
16. reg. Com. I. So C. V.

Brown

Come to hand 16th April, 1864,
Young H. E. Hitch April the 21.
Cool weather this is for the time of year

Figure 5: An envelope in the Mowbray collection addressed to "Y.H.E. Hitch" in Dalton, Georgia, franked with a postally used CSA 10-cent stamp. Note that it includes his unit named as "Gists Brigade 16 reg. Com I. So C.V." The handwriting on this envelope for the address portion is that of Aunt Sally Hitch, who Young stated on April 21 sent him a letter on April 16, 1864 (the actual letter is missing, however). It is notable that this envelope was folded inside out to be reused at a later date given the scarcity of paper.

in the hospital at the regiment. This is the third day I have been in this hospital. Dear Son, I have suffered a great deal since I saw you last. I suppose that you heard of me having the measles and me being left behind allmost right amongst the Yankeys. Lucian, Pa fared rough with the measles. I thought one week that I could not live. But for sum cause God has spared my life a little longer. Lucian, I calculated on being captured by the Enemy while I was sick. The Yankey passed in six miles of me on their way to Jackson & they returned by the same road. I was about halfway between Jackson and Vicksburg. The people where I staid treated me as good as I deserved probably but not as good as they could of done. I paid him $13.00 & would of give him as mutch more if they had acted more gentlemanly with me. My health a little better today.

This letter of August 20, 1863, between Young and his son Lucian helps put into perspective the disease many soldiers faced during the war. Disease killed many more soldiers than combat. The close quarters these soldiers kept helped diseases like measles, dysentery, cholera, and others spread rapidly and lethally through the ranks. Also in the letter, we see where Hitch paid "Mr. Odom" $13 to help offset the homeowner's expenses, a common practice of the time.

The war dragged on from here and the 16th fell back from its intended support of Vicksburg and headed eastward through Mississippi to West Point, Alabama, by August 26, 1863. From there, it took "the cars" (e.g., a train) north to Tennessee, then south to Rome, Georgia, and back into Tennessee near Chattanooga before settling into Dalton, Georgia, around Thanksgiving Day in 1863 where they spent the winter. In some of the letters, Hitch showed his and his fellow soldiers' lament in not having faced any direct combat action in any of the eight months since they left camp in South Carolina back in the previous March. He noted they were late in getting to Vicksburg so saw no fighting during the back-and-forth maneuvering between Tennessee and Georgia from August to November 1863, and they missed engagements at Chickamauga, Georgia, in September and Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, in November.

In a September 18, 1863, letter from Private Hitch to his wife, Mary, he mentioned he had seen an old friend from home, Simeon Thackston, who was part of Company G, 3rd South Carolina. That unit had already met with much action, and his friend was wounded near Richmond in June 1862. Thackston related to Hitch that their friend Oliver Moore, a 2nd Lieutenant, was also in Thackston's unit, but Hitch did not get a chance to speak to him. This was unfortunate because two days later in the Battle of Chickamauga, Moore was killed in action. Hitch's unit was encamped at the base of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, from this time till they left for Dalton, Georgia, on November 23. They were part of the siege of Chattanooga but saw no direct action. This was the time when Union General William T. Sherman arrived in Tennessee from Vicksburg and prepared to begin his infamous drive toward Atlanta.

For Hitch and his fellow soldiers, the winter of 1864 passed rather uneventfully in Dalton. They had accommodations in small houses and so were in much better quarters than they had when marching and pitching tents or sleeping outside. Topics covered in the letters generally shifted from the darkness of disease and relentless marching to everyday chores and activities. On February 2, 1864, Hitch wrote to his wife: "Mary, I have just bought half a square of this sort of paper. I give two dollars for it. And I just bought me a new pair of socks. I paid a five dollar bill for them. And I have just six dollars fifty cents of money in hand at present. Mary, I dismissed my old shoes yesterday morning Feb. 1st. they have been faithful old friends to me and have carried me over many a rough mile of rocks. The shoes that I have on are not worth mutch but they did not cost me a thing. They were a pair of the donation shoes. Mary, today has been wash day with me. I washed two pieces, a shirt and pair of drawers. Got them clean & white too."

This passage is both interesting in its simplicity and also in what it says about the times. Inflation of the Confederate currency was running high and a pair of socks cost $5, an amount that may have been a week's earnings before the war. Shoes for the entire Rebel Army were very scarce at the time, and Young Hitch was experiencing this first-hand as he "dismissed" his former worn-out pair and donned a "new" pair of barely functional "donation shoes." We also see that paper was still scarce and expensive, but Hitch made it a point to buy it anyway to keep open the lines of communication home. Figure 5 shows an envelope from the collection that was found inside-out and reused to extend its life due to the shortage.

Other letters during this time tell us more of camp life in 1864. On February 8, Hitch wrote his son J.J. Hitch and told him of the 16th South Carolina's participation in a general army review for CSA General Joseph Johnston in Dalton. Upward of 32,000 soldiers marched in columns that stretched miles. As Hitch wrote: "It was so long that it took General Jo Johnson a good while to lope his pretty bay mare around."

There was a large snowstorm on March 22 that blanketed the whole east coast of the U.S. and left 5 inches in the Dalton, Georgia, area. Hitch wrote of it in a March 24, 1864, letter: "Mary you have often heard of snow balling. If you had been here yesterday & the evening before you could of seen the biggest one you ever did sure. Tuesday evening Jacksons Brigade made an attack on ours & I am sure I never saw snow fly before. And yesterday I never saw & heard the like it was not just a few men it was hundreds against hundreds. One Brigade would charge another & fight until the ones they had charged would get to hard for them when they would break for home & the others after as hard as their heels could carry them. And then sutch whooping you never heard. Each side would take prisoners all they could. I was on post a part of the time & then on my line and on each side they did not aim their missiles at me at all but I was in the hot place, one army on the one side & the other on the other. Their balls flew around me thick & heavy. I did not take any part with them for I was on guard & would not no how." This was a moment of levity in a trying and desolate time in our nation's history.

About this time, the Union army began to move southward and tested the Southern army's strongholds around Dalton with an attack on February 24-25, 1864. It was not a major affair in Civil War terms, and historians agree that they were just systematically testing General Johnston's army for any weaknesses. The intelligence from those maneuvers were used during the Atlanta Campaign that began later in the spring of 1864. Again, Hitch's unit saw no direct action, as they were assigned to defend a road to the rear. However, in a February 28 letter to his wife, Young wrote that he could hear the action and that "... they put their shots in like hail all day long ... we lost 110 men killed dead, the loss on the enemys side I don't know." Official accounts of the battle state that the South had suffered 140 casualties, so Hitch's eyewitness knowledge of 110 killed matched closely. The North lost more than twice as many, according to the same official accounts.

As the North pushed the Southern army further to the south and east toward Atlanta, things got hotter for Hitch's 16th South Carolina and soon they were not pining for action any more. In his letters home, we see an increase in the frequency and duration of guard duty and military exercising with a great anticipation of action that might soon occur. By May 1864, the Atlanta Campaign got underway in earnest, and Hitch felt the danger in the air when he penned on May 1 a longing for home: "Mary I often think of home & the past & gone by days of pleasure that I have spent with you. I hope that I may live to get home again & that we may Enjoy a few more days on Earth together. I want to see my old home again very bad. I would be glad to see the old chicken coop or the sheep house. And I would love to see them pretty shade trees & the rose bushes in the month ... To come home would be a treat to me sure at this time."

During the next six weeks, Private Hitch and the rest of the Rebel army were steadily pushed backward to the very outskirts of Atlanta. There had been many skirmishes along the way, and CSA General Johnston, facing overwhelming numbers of Union soldiers, used a favored tactic of his to fight just a bit and then fall back to a defensive position. Finally, by mid-June 1864, he decides to dig his army in near Kennesaw Mountain, about 20 miles northwest of Atlanta, in a line that began just north of Marietta, Georgia, and formed a long semi-circle south and westward for several miles. This was where he planned to mount his major defense of Atlanta, and Hitch and the 16th South Carolina, as part of Gist's Brigade, were dug in behind strong earth and breast works at just about the midpoint of that line, a half-mile southwest of the Kennesaw Mountain summit. On June 2, Private Hitch wrote his final, prophetic letter to his wife:

> This may be the last you hear from me. God only knows. But if I fall I hope to fall doing my duty. If I should survive this war let this be my boast that I served as a private in the great struggle for Southern independence. -So I remain your husband, Y.H.E. Hitch

The next letter Mary received was from Private William Berry Scruggs, her brother-in-law, dated June 20, 1864. He wrote:

> Line of Battle near Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia. June 20th 1864 Dear Sister, It is made my painful duty to inform you that your dear husband is no more is was shot in the head on yesterday while on skirmish duty, about 10 oclock. He, Hosea Holcomb, Absalom White and Andrew Forester were all behind a temporary breastwork. He had just discharged his gun and before he recovered his former position, he was struck by a small ball. He fell and, as he fell, he said "Oh Lordy." Dear Sister, I have the melancholy pleasure to inform you that he made a good soldier. He lived

> respected and died lamented by all the co and regt who knew him.

Private Young H.E. Hitch had died while on picket duty near Kennesaw Mountain on June 19, 1864, leaving a wife and sons John J. and Lucian Hitch, ages 16 and 9, respectively. His family was devastated, so much so that every letter he had written from the time he entered service till the day he was killed was carefully preserved. The preservation continued over the years as the generations came and went, and finally they were rediscovered by Ms. Mowbray in her house in Fountain Inn. A certain serendipity exists in this story for, when she found them, she sought this writer via a tip from a local person who knew I had done a lot of work on the Hitch family. Private Hitch was her great-great grandfather and a collateral cousin of this writer, and in those moments and the two years that followed, it is almost as if Private Hitch was reaching beyond the grave to try and tell his story. Ms. Mowbray and I would oblige his wishes.

While this article has covered only a few items, the entire story can be experienced in a book we compiled back in 2015. The book, available in the Nabb Center library and via purchase, is called *Oh Lordy!, A Story of One Family's Trials During the Struggle for Southern Independence as Told Through the Letters of Private Young H.E. Hitch, Company I, 16th South Carolina Volunteer Infantry* and includes a transcription of all the correspondence in the collection as well as a brief history of the Hitch family's roots on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and a complete story of Company I as eye-witnessed by Private Hitch and within the context of the Civil War.

The collection is outstanding – there are hundreds of documents that promise to become a foundation for scholarly historical information and interpretation for many years to come. The Nabb Center is the perfect place to house it and is honored and proud to have it within its archives, so that the Young Hitch legacy can be enjoyed for many future generations. Interested readers are invited to visit the Center and view this excellent collection for themselves.

Mike Hitch, chair of Nabb's board of directors, is also the author of *Adam Hitch (1658-1731) of Old Somerset in ye Province of Maryland: His Descendants.*

Tax Ditches

By Rachel Pierson

Last summer, I had the incredible opportunity to conduct many weeks worth of archival research in the Nabb Center as part of my senior thesis for the Honors College at Salisbury University. The overarching goal of my thesis is to analyze small-scale water management throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore, specifically by studying the agricultural drainage ditches characteristic of Delmarva's landscape today.

One of the interesting facets of the ditch network is its history, especially how this system of nearly 1,000 miles of ditches came to exist on the sliver of land of Maryland's Eastern Shore. At the Nabb Center, I found several key and previously undiscovered pieces of information about the history of the ditch network. My work began by sorting through thousands of archived newspaper clippings, digitally searching by the term 'ditch' in hopes of finding any reference to early drainage ditch projects. In reading through the results, I found nearly 100 newspaper clippings referencing ditches. The first piece of exciting evidence I found was a notice for the creation of a tax ditch dating back to the 1880s. Prior to this find, it was believed that tax ditches were not introduced until the 1930s, thus this piece of information became quite important to my project. In addition, a handful of newspaper records dated back to the 1700s, helping to construct the history of the ditch network.

The discovery of ditch references in old newspaper archives led me to question if historical maps marked the locations of ditches as well. I looked through land assessment maps for Wicomico County, and by going through several plats of land and associated hand-written deeds, I was able to find records of ditches from the 1900s. Most of these records noted ditches as property boundaries, adding another dimension to my study of the ditch network.

The final piece of the research I conducted at the Nabb Center involved delving into the archived surveyors' collections. My search began with the Miles Family Surveyor Collection for Somerset County, and on the first day working with this collection, I found a hidden gem. The first file I opened from one of this collection's boxes was a series of documents pertaining to Manokin Tax Ditch, dated 1869! Finding this historical record of the Manokin Tax Ditch supported the claim that the tax ditch network existed far sooner than believed previously, likely having evolved from this historical network of ditches. I spent several weeks poring through numerous files and documents, deciphering hand-written surveyor's notes in hopes of finding any additional record of tax ditches, which led to finding a file pertaining specifically to tax ditches.

Locating these previously undiscovered documents at the Nabb Center provided new and pertinent information to add to the existing literature surrounding the ditch network. The process of searching through the archives at the Nabb Center added an invaluable element to my thesis, in addition to greatly contributing to telling the history of the Eastern Shore's ditch network. All in all, the Nabb Center research provided a vital lens through which my project looks at the ditch network, and it goes without saying that the Nabb Center and the faculty and staff working there are incredible resources for the Salisbury campus and wider Eastern Shore community.

Rachel Pierson graduated in May and began graduate studies at the University of Vermont in the fall.

W.J. Holloway:
Images of Education in Wicomico County

By Ian Post

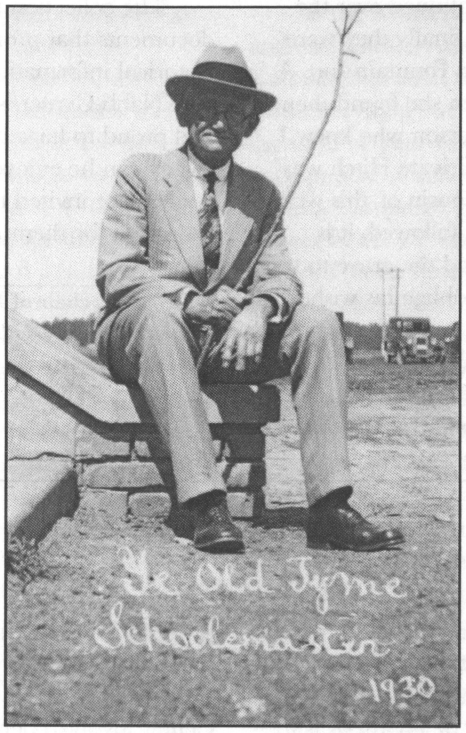


Figure 1: William J. Holloway

Dr. William J. Holloway is best known as the first principal of the Maryland State Normal School (now Salisbury University), as well as for the iconic building that bears his name – Holloway Hall. Yet, during the commemoration of Wicomico County's 150th anniversary, Holloway was remembered for his role as the county's superintendent of schools from 1908 to 1917. Holloway should also be recognized for his camerawork; a collection of 330 photographs at the Nabb Research Center includes images he took during the 1910s of one-room school houses and other rural school buildings in Wicomico County.

Holloway was born in Salisbury on January 29, 1873, and graduated from Salisbury High School at the age of 16. After working as a railroad and commercial telegraph operator, he decided to enter the teaching profession in 1893. Over the following decade, he progressed from teaching elementary school to teaching elementary school teachers. In 1901, he became principal of Salisbury High School, and in 1903, he was offered an instruction position at the Maryland State Normal School in Towson. While teaching at Towson, Holloway began his collegiate studies at Johns Hopkins University, which led to his career in education administration.

In 1908, Holloway decided to return home and serve as the superintendent of schools for Wicomico County. At the time, the county owned 94 schoolhouses and had an average annual attendance of 3,232 pupils in "white" and "colored" schools. Many of those schoolhouses consisted of only one room and 17 did not even have sufficient outhouses. Holloway devoted the entire 1916-1917 school year to observing instruction in one-teacher schools in the county. During this observation tour, he also photographed each school building. His images of one-room schoolhouses at White Haven, Freeny's, and Porter's Mill – in addition to larger schools like East Salisbury Primary and Pittsville – were eventually used in reports and are also reproduced in documents within the Wicomico Board of Education records at the Nabb Research Center.

In 1917, Holloway's role in Maryland education expanded as he was named the state supervisor of rural schools. After a promotion to assistant state superintendent of schools in 1922, Holloway began to promote the idea of establishing a normal school on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. These efforts led the Maryland Legislature to form a commission that eventually issued a report in 1923 calling for the establishment of a two-year school near Salisbury to train elementary school teachers. On October 17, 1923, ground was broken on farmland purchased from William F. Allen for $16,000. The school, whose building was designed by Smith and May Architects, opened its doors on September 7, 1925, with just over 100 students who were trained to teach elementary students on the Eastern Shore.

Holloway played a part in nearly every function of the school in his role as principal of the Maryland State Normal School at Salisbury. His photographs captured campus scenes, including the completed northern portion of Holloway Hall in 1925, a team of mules excavating the basement of the 1928

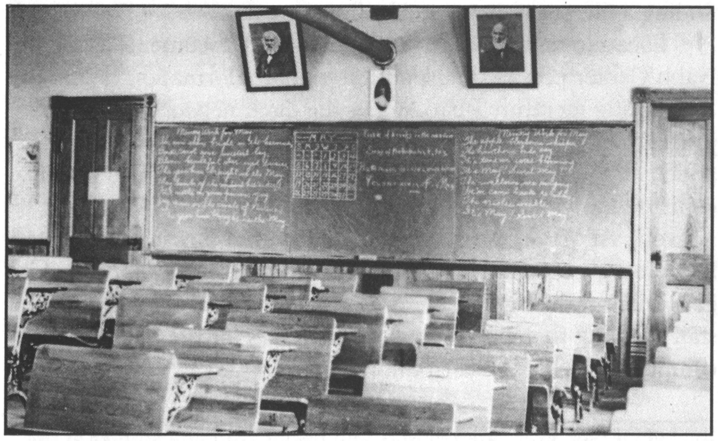


Figure 2: Classroom, unknown school

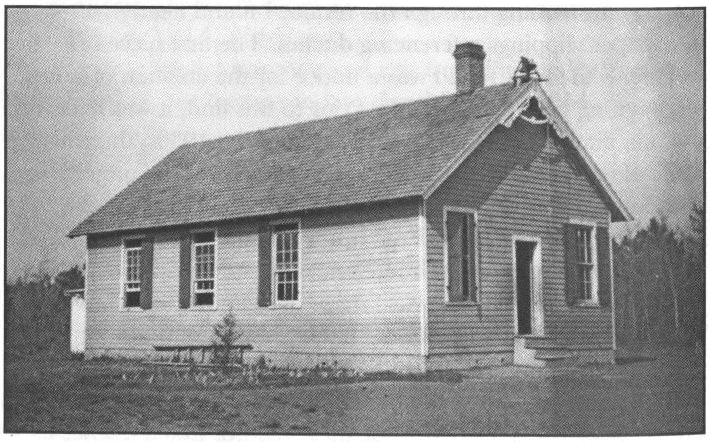


Figure 3: White Haven School

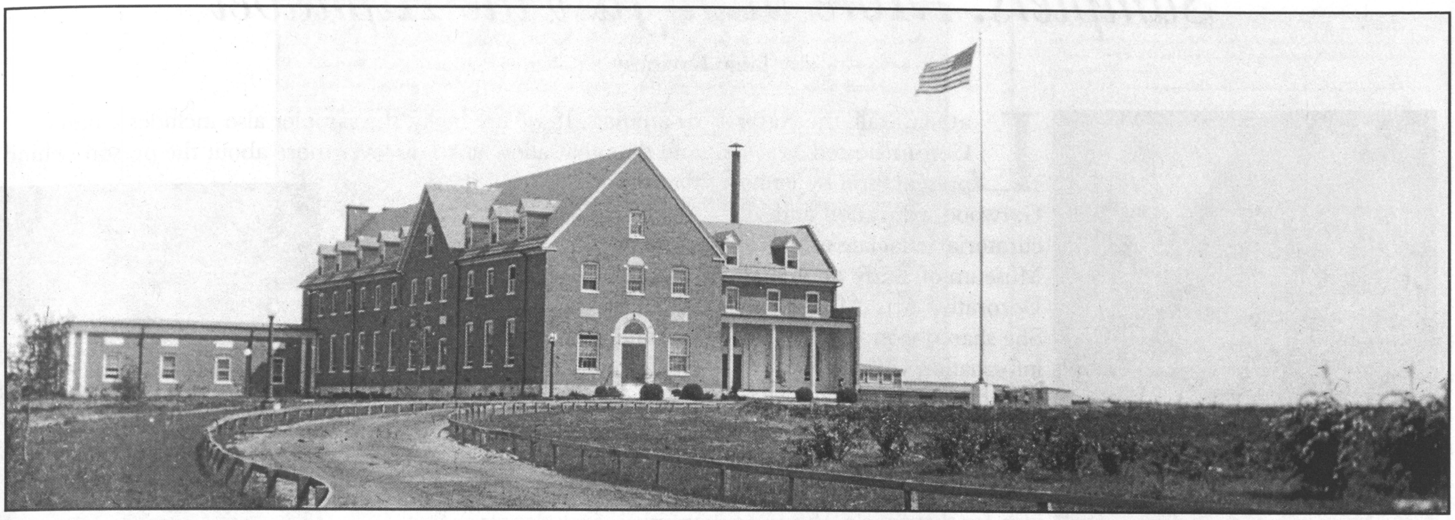


Figure 4: Northern portion of Holloway Hall, Maryland State Normal School 1925

addition, dorm rooms and other offices, student organizations, tree planting ceremonies, graduate portraits, and commencement exercises. Questions about the business and recordkeeping practices of the school led to Holloway's resignation on October 5, 1934. On Saturday, March 14, 1936, Holloway passed away in a Baltimore hospital, leaving behind his wife, Mary Weller Holloway, and six children.

The photographs that Holloway took document the State Normal School from 1925 to 1928, Wicomico County schools in the 1910s, and Holloway's family life and activities in the 1920s. The 37 glass plate negatives were transferred from the Alumni House in 2017 and approximately 300 film-based negatives were donated by Ed Holloway (William's son) to the University in 1999. The photographs, in addition to a small portion of his papers, are preserved in the University Archives at the Nabb Research Center.

Ian Post is Salisbury University's archivist and special collections librarian.

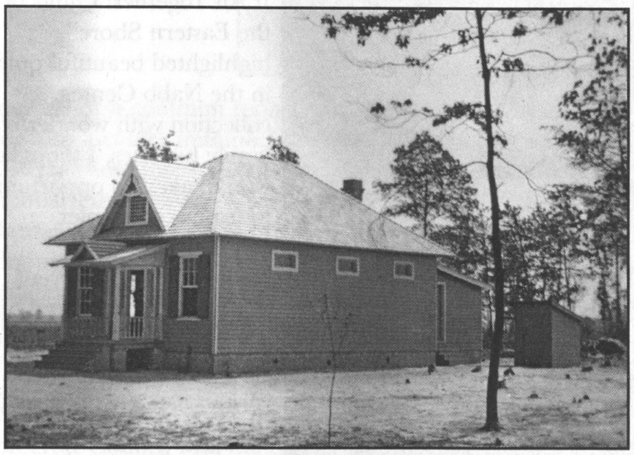


Figure 6: Freeny's

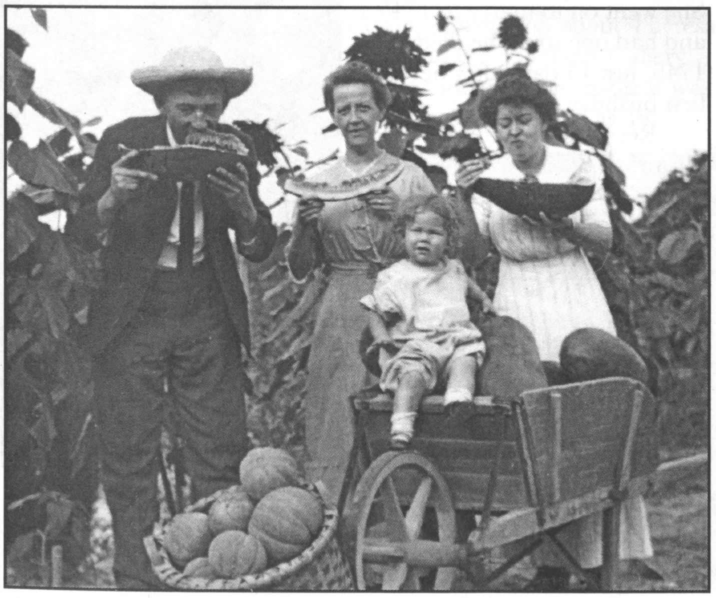


Figure 5: Unknown family in local melon field

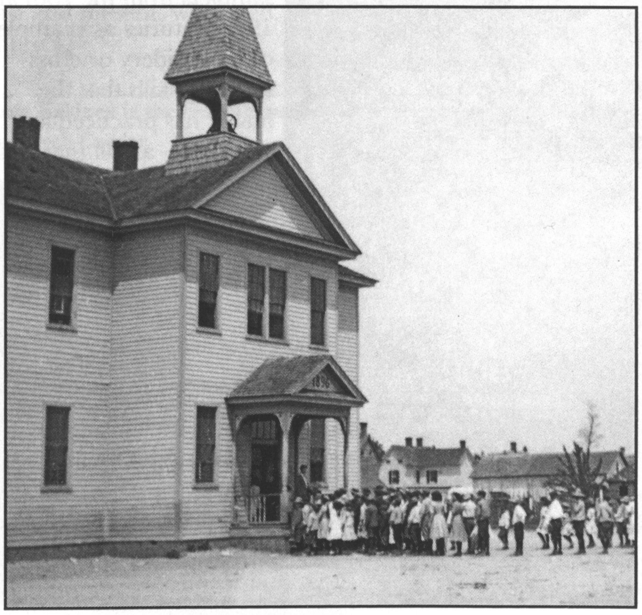


Figure 7: East Salisbury Primary

Samplers: More than Just the Alphabet

By Janie Kreines

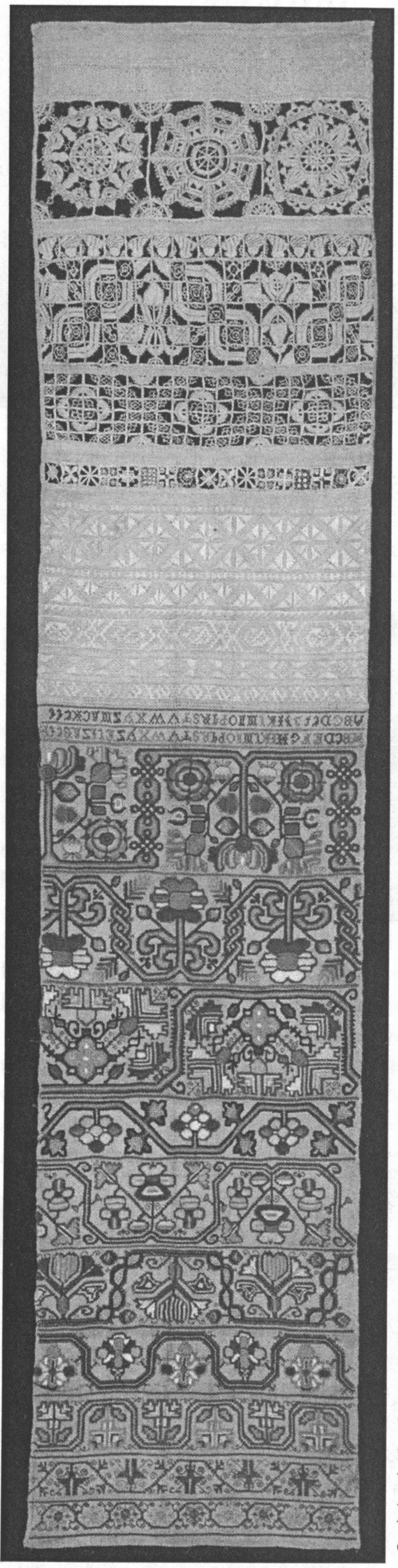


Figure 1: Linen band sampler made by Elizabeth Mackett in 1696, V & A website

Late last fall, the Nabb Center hosted a presentation by Jenny Garwood, education and curatorial associate at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA). She shared wonderful information with the attendees about Maryland quilts and samplers in the MESDA collection. It was a great event that sparked the idea for this article. While our recent exhibit "Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore" highlighted beautiful quilts in the Nabb Center collection with wonderful family histories, I thought I would take this opportunity to feature a sampler.

A sampler is a compilation of different elements, embroidered on a piece of fabric, often linen. Examining the details of the various elements reveals the skills of the maker. The purpose of a sampler has likely changed over time, but we most often associate samplers from the 18th and 19th centuries as examples of embroidery or cross-stitching skills that the maker has practiced and achieved – a skill that was taught to young girls as part of their school lessons. The skills were taught so they could help with certain needs around the home, but they eventually became a status symbol – highlighting the more challenging techniques and designs done by girls in more affluent households. These samplers often featured the alphabet, a common phrase, and sometimes buildings, figures, or animals. If we are lucky, the sampler also includes a name and date that allow us to discover more about the person behind the work.

Samplers date back centuries and include a variety of materials, designs, and purpose. The Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England, has a large collection of over 700 samplers dating from the 14th to the early 20th centuries that were made around the world, including England, Morocco, Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark. According to the Museum's website: "With the composition of band samplers comes the first clear indication in England of the form being used as a method of instruction and practice for girls learning needlework." Fig. 1 is an example of a band sampler.

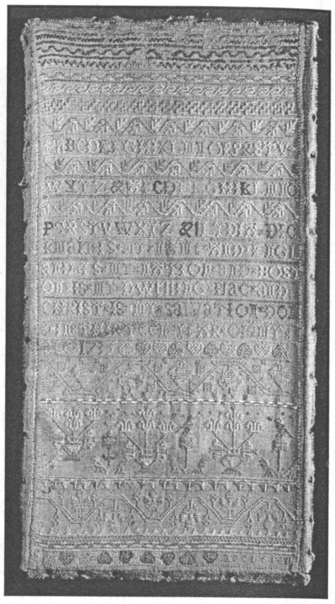
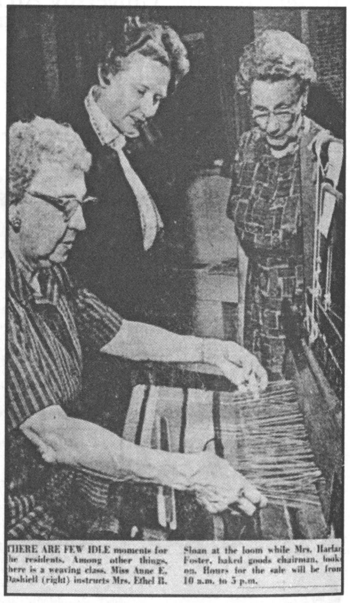


Figure 2: Sampler made by Lydia Dickman in 1735, National Museum of American History website

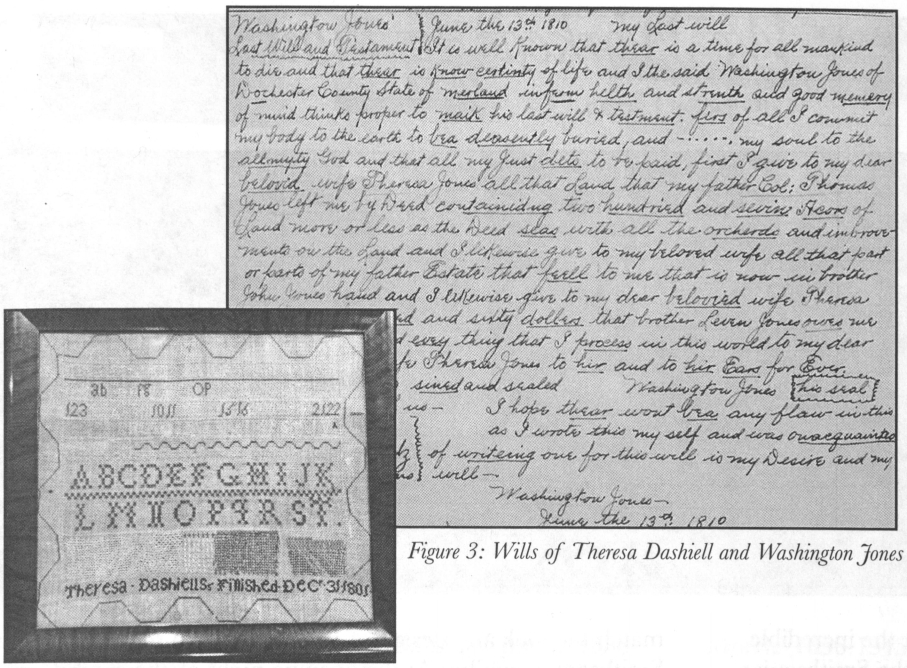
The National Museum of American History has 137 American samplers in its textile collection: "The earliest known American sampler was made by Loara Standish of the Plymouth Colony about 1645 … The earliest dated sampler in the collection (The National Museum of American History) was made in 1735 by Lydia Dickman of Boston, Massachusetts." Lydia was 13 years old when she made the sampler seen in Fig. 2 using a piece of linen and multiple colors of silk thread. She went on to marry in 1745 and had one son. She died in 1746, just 15 days after her son's first birthday.



THERE ARE FEW IDLE moments for he residents. Among other things, here is a weaving class. Miss Anne E. Dashiell (right) instructs Mrs. Ethel B. Sloan at the loom while Mrs. Harla Foster, baked goods chairman, look on. Hours for the sale will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Figure 4: The Morning News, *Wilmington, Delaware, October 7, 1963*

Received by the Wicomico Historical Society in 1966 as part of Anne E. Dashiell's estate, an 1801 band sampler made by Theresa Dashiell (1787-1857) was then transferred to the Nabb Center in 2009 (See Figure 3). Theresa was one of five children born to Thomas (1765-1806) and Elizabeth (1762-1796) Dashiell. She was likely born and raised in Somerset County, Maryland. Theresa married Washington Jones (1777-1830)



Washingtow Jones' June the 13th 1810 my Last will
Last Will and Testament It is well Known that threar is a time for all mankind
to die and that threar is know certinty of life and I the said Washingtow Jones of
Dorchester County State of merland in from helth and strenth and good memery
of mind thinks proper to maik his last will & testment. firs of all I commit
my body to the earth to bea deasently buried, and ….. my soul to the
allmyty God and that all my Just dets to be paid, first I give to my dear
belovid wife Theresa Jones all that Land that my father Col: Thomas
Jones left me by Deed containidng two hundried and sevin Acors of
Land more or less as the Deed slas with all the orcherds and imbrove-
ments on the Land and I likewise give to my beloved wife all that part
or parts of my father Estate that fell to me that is now in brother
John Jones hand and I likewise give to my dear beloveid wife Theresa
…d and sixty dollrs that brother Levin Jones owes me
…d every thing that I process in this world to my dear
…fe Theresa Jones to hir and to hir Ears for Ever.
sined and sealed Washingtow Jones his seal
…us— I hope threar wont bea any flaw in this
as I wrote this my self and was ounacquainted
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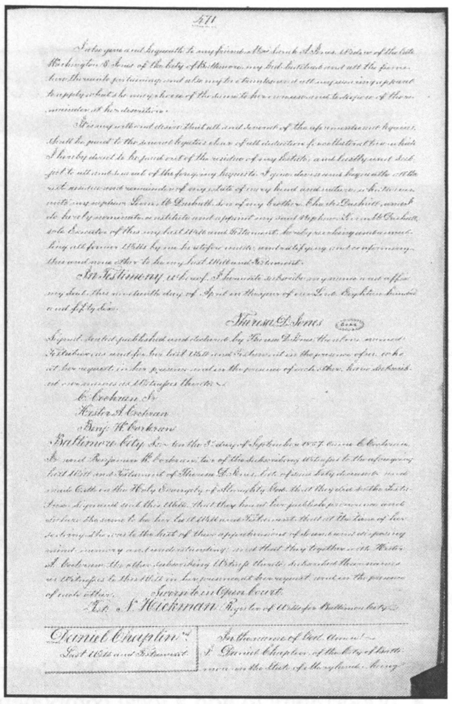
will—
Washingtow Jones—
June the 13th 1810

Figure 3: Wills of Theresa Dashiell and Washington Jones



on July 28, 1809, in Somerset County. They eventually moved to Dorchester County, residing in election district "5" or the Lake District. They did not have any children, but their wills, shown in Fig. 3, expressed their wishes for distributing their land, property, and possessions. Theresa and Washington are buried at the Old Trinity Church Cemetery in Church Creek, Maryland.

Theresa had four brothers: Charles, Matthias, Levin, and Thomas. Charles was listed as a merchant in the 1850 census in Somerset County. He had multiple children, including Orlando Dashiell, who was born in 1847. Orlando married Ella Bradley (1857-1944) in 1878, and they had multiple children, including Anne E. Dashiell (1884-1964), the person who donated the sampler to the Wicomico Historical Society.

This sampler is more than a piece of fabric containing the alphabet; it is evidence of the hard work of a young 14-year-old girl, the customs and culture of the past, and a link to the history of the area, prompting us to seek out information about Theresa and her family. It has been on display in the Neimann Gallery on the fourth floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons. It was displayed in the inventory case, which was assembled as an example of a common room from a 19th-century home. This case also includes multiple furniture pieces with wonderful Eastern Shore history, including a linen press and corner cupboard that, based on information provided by the donor, Margaret Burrowes, was originally from Accomack County, Virginia. The pieces were taken to the Liberty Hall plantation in Somerset County, Maryland, likely by the Whealton family. Another piece in the inventory case is a slant-front desk, donated by Paul Morris, that had been passed down through his family. It is believed this desk and bookcase were listed on the 1788 inventory of Thomas Pollitt, born in 1717 in Stepney Parish, Somerset County, Maryland, and died in 1786.

The artifact collection at the Nabb Research Center is filled with textiles, agricultural tools, household items, political and military pieces, and paintings. Many hold the stories of people, past and present, who lived, worked, and played on the Eastern Shore.

Janie Kreines is the exhibits and artifacts curator at the Nabb Research Center.

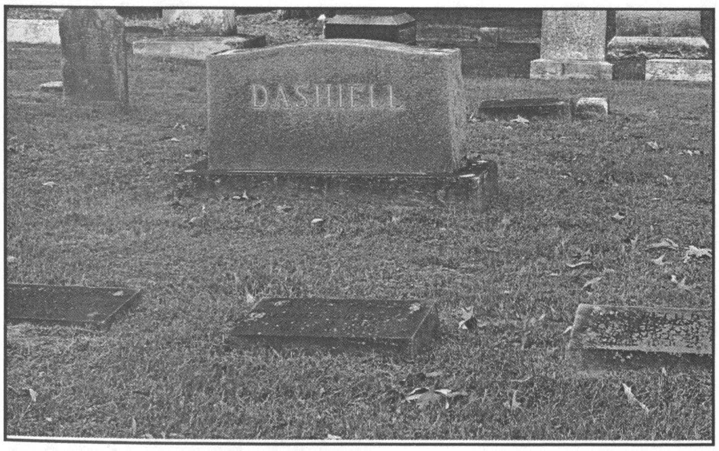


Figure 5: Dashiell family gravesite in Parsons Cemetery, Salisbury, Maryland

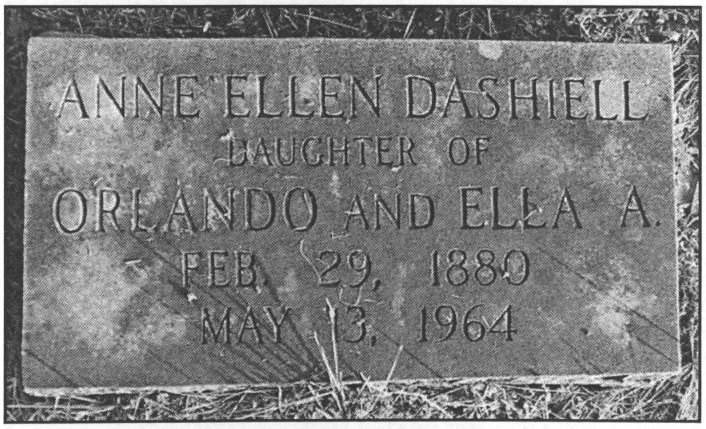


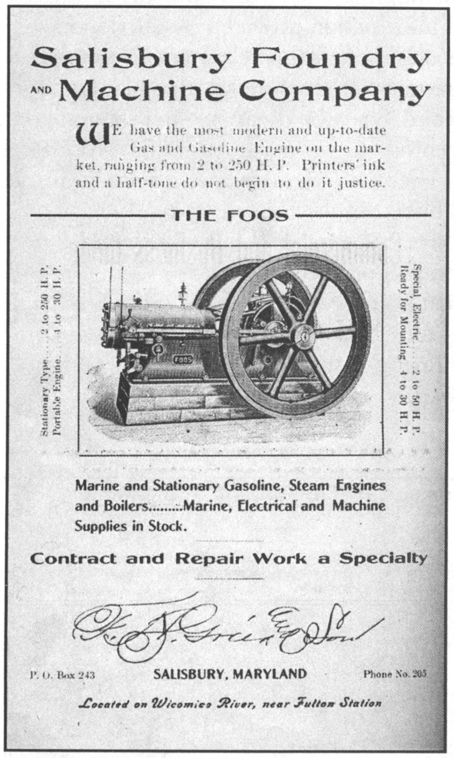
Figure 6: Anne Ellen Dashiell's footstone

'The Way We Worked' Exhibit

By Jaclyn Laman

In late summer 2017, the Nabb Center got the incredible opportunity to add a local component to the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "The Way We Worked." Arranged by Salisbury University's Director of Galleries Liz Kauffman, through Maryland Humanities, the exhibit was on display at the new SU Art Galleries Downtown Campus from September 15-November 3, 2017.

"The Way We Worked," an exhibit that chronicles where, how, who, and why we have worked over the past 150 years through the collections of the National Archives, is an exhibit that is traveling all over the country and was displayed at multiple places within the State of Maryland before making its last stop in Salisbury. For the local component, we chose to focus on four areas of labor – water, agriculture, lumber, and manufacturing – that were, and still are in some respects, important here on the Eastern Shore. As the curatorial assistant, I compiled the majority of the research from newspaper articles and books with the help and guidance of Exhibits and Artifacts Curator Janie Kreines and Aaron Horner, the Nabb Research assistant. Janie and I worked with Lori Pauling, a graphic artist in the Publications Office at SU, to match the look and design of our panels with those of the Smithsonian exhibit. At the opening night of the exhibit, several people commented that they could not distinguish between the Nabb Center panels and the Smithsonian panels.



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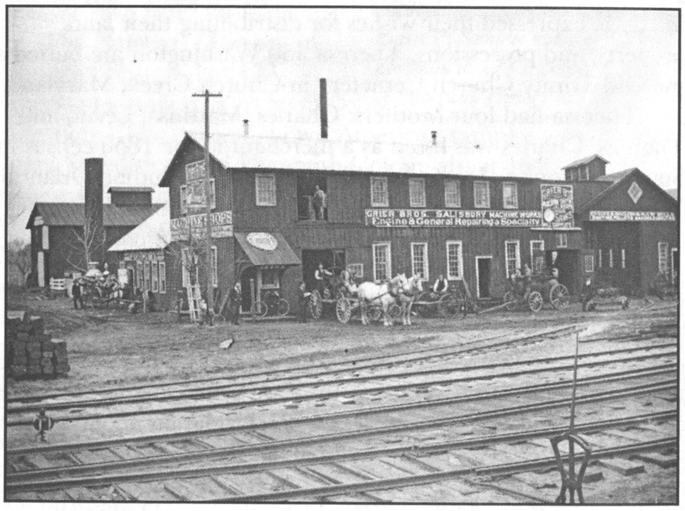

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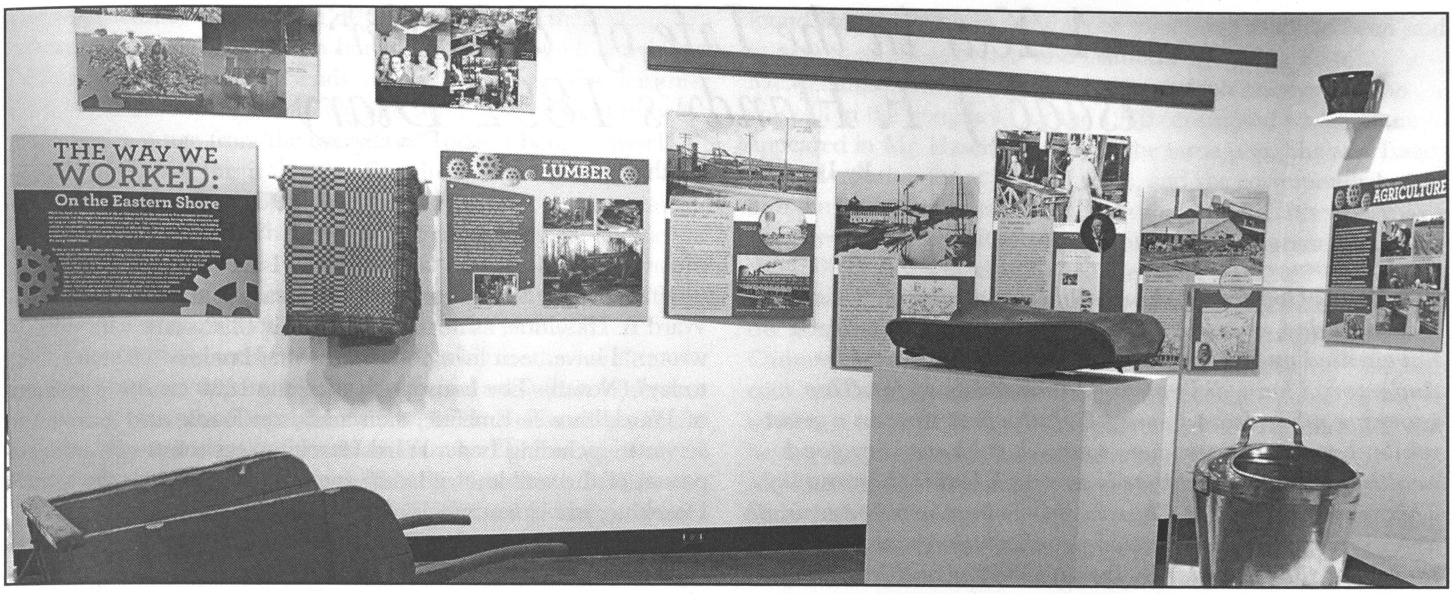
Covering the four labor categories, we researched over 20 different companies and people from all over the Eastern Shore, focusing on the growing hub of Salisbury from the late-19th through the mid-20th centuries. One company I found quite interesting was that of the Grier Brothers. In 1888, Fred A. Grier and his brother Robert moved to Salisbury from Wilmington, Delaware, and started Grier Bros. Salisbury Machine Works. The company manufactured and repaired all sorts of machinery and engines. For some unknown reason the brothers parted ways in 1903, but both brothers stayed in the machine works business, quite successfully, with Fred founding the Salisbury Foundry and Machine Company with his son, while Robert kept the original building and changed the name to Salisbury Machine Works. An interesting side note, before moving to Salisbury, Fred was a successful fireman in



Wilmington who helped fight the great Salisbury fire of 1886 that destroyed much of downtown; the brothers even owned a fire engine that they sold to the city of Salisbury in 1898 for $1,200. Being able to connect the story of the brothers' journey in business on the Eastern Shore with photographs and advertisements from the early-20th century truly brought the information to life.

That was the beauty of conducting research for this exhibit – reading about a specific person, such as E.S. Adkins or L.W. Gunby, or a specific company, such as W.F. Allen Plantations or the Salisbury Marine Construction Company, and then matching the stories to photographs, advertisements, and newspaper clippings. In addition to a variety of images, the exhibit downtown also featured over a dozen artifacts from the Nabb Center collection, including a coverlet made by Rosa Tilghman Morris (1856-1945), an Oliver Standard No. 9 visible writer typewriter used in the L.W. Gunby Store in the early 1900s, a brick from the Salisbury Brick Company, and a tin-coated dairy pail made for the L.W. Gunby Company. These artifacts created a three-dimensional experience for visitors. Through the archival and artifact collections, hundreds of years of history can come alive, and that, I believe, is the best part of the Nabb Center. The exhibit panels are now on display on the fourth floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons. We hope you get a chance to stop by and enjoy the fascinating content and images!

Jaclyn Laman, a student in SU's Honors College, works with Nabb's curator on exhibits and helps catalog material culture items.

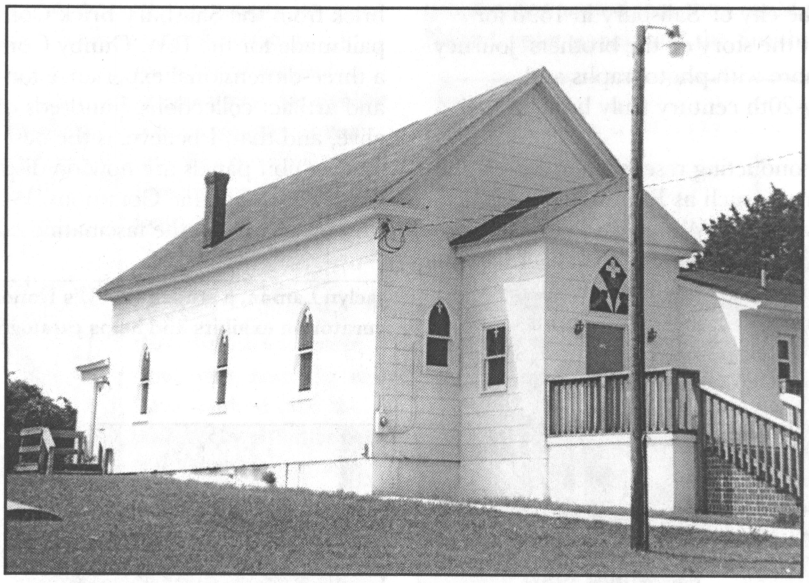
THE WAY WE WORKED:
On the Eastern Shore
AGRICULTURE

A Year in the Life of a Butler: Isaac J. F. Handy's 1892 Diary

By Lee Ellen Griffith, Ph.D.

Friday, January 1. 1892

Praise God from whom all blessings flows. This is a beautiful day. every body seems to look happy today. I have called on Mr. and Mrs. Brock and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. I have did nothing much today so far. This morning while front I saw J.E.H. the first time in a great while. I received no money today, but I have very good health thank God and that is so much better than money. This evening I was at Church, this being the twenty-nineth anniversary of emancipation proclamation was celebrated tonight at the Chapel. Mr. Isaiah C. Wear and Mr. A.K. McClure were the speakers. There was agrat many out and every thing went off nicely. Went to bed at 12 Oclock. I was at Sister Butlers after lunch.



Freedman's Methodist Church near Tyaskin, Maryland. *At the Crossroads: The Architectural History of Wicomico County, Maryland*

So begins a small diary found in an abandoned house in Tyaskin, Maryland, and now in the collections of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. It offers a detailed and intimate account of the life of an African-American butler living and working in Philadelphia in the year 1892. The diarist was Isaac J. F. Handy (c. 1850-1925) who grew up in Tyaskin, where his father George Handy was a farmer and his mother Susan Jones Handy reared their family of four daughters and three sons. "G. Handy" appears on the 1877 map of Tyaskin located on the west side of Tyaskin Creek just outside the little village of Tyaskin. Isaac was born on July 29, most likely in 1850, which is the date on his gravestone. He wrote in his diary on July 29: "This is my birthday and I am quite well for an old man over forty" (Isaac Handy's 1892 Diary, July 29; hereafter cited in text). The year of his birth is only called into question by differing ages reported on census records over the years and by the birth date of 1848 reported by his sister Eliza on his death certificate.

By June 1870, Isaac was working as one of three domestic servants in the Baltimore household of James M. Smith. The census from that year lists Isaac as 19 years old, which is in line with 1850 being the year of his birth, and his race is identified as mulatto. Just a few years later, in 1873, Isaac was in Philadelphia at 1825 Walnut Street working as a servant in the household of Ward B. Haseltine, as documented in his 1892 diary where he wrote: "I have been living here with Mr. Haseltine 19 years today" (Nov. 6). The household, as of the 1880 census, consisted of Ward, his wife Emeline, their adult son Frank, and four servants, including Isaac. Ward Haseltine was a first cousin and patron of the well-known landscape artist William Stanley Haseltine, who spent much of his working life as part of the American expatriate art colony in Rome. That relationship likely encouraged the Haseltines' habit of summering in Europe, which would leave Isaac on his own for a few months each year. In 1880, the census showed that he returned to his father's house in Tyaskin where he was counted on June 5 with his occupation listed as "waiter in family." In fact, he held the distinction of having been counted twice in that census, also shown in the Haseltine household just a few days earlier on June 1.

In March 1886, Ward Haseltine died. In this 1892 diary, Isaac remembered him with this entry: "Mr. Haseltine has been dead six years today" (Mar. 1). Ward's son Frank remained in the house at 1825 Walnut Street and became head of that household, retaining Isaac on his staff. Frank Haseltine was 48 years old at the time and had never married but enjoyed a respectable position in Philadelphia society through family connections and memberships in the Philadelphia Club and the Harvard Club. He was listed variously in Philadelphia directories as a gentleman, a lawyer, and an artist with a studio at 1029 Arch Street. His artwork was shown at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and he was a member of the Philadelphia Sketch Club. Frank enjoyed hosting dinner parties, large and small, requiring his butler to possess a distinct set of skills to organize the meals, observe Victorian rules of etiquette, set a proper table, and serve his guests. Isaac was apparently equal to the task.

It was during this chapter of his career, in 1892, that Isaac Handy wrote this diary, presumably one of many, faithfully making an entry for each and every day of the year. He opened each day with an observation of the weather and then chronicled his daily work as a butler, his many church activities, visits to and letters from friends, news events of the day, leisure-time walks around Philadelphia, and what time he went to bed. The entries range from the everyday, "Today I bought myself a tooth brush. And this is the very first thing I have gotten for myself all year" (Jan. 16), to the noteworthy, "Dr. Agnew was buried this afternoon. Philadelphia's greatest Surgical doctor" (Mar. 25).

The content and format of the diary attests to the fact that Isaac had a strong educational background. He may have learned at home since he mentioned that his mother wrote letters to him, so apparently she could read and write. Wherever he received his schooling, Isaac was well-educated and became a prolific correspondent to friends and family: "I have again written to my sister Eliza today" (Feb. 9); "I wrote to Brother William and Isaac Dennis today" (Feb. 22); and "I have written some letters this evening besides reading the papers" (Sept. 3). Although Isaac and Eliza exchanged letters frequently, she was not literate as evidenced by her "mark" rather than a signature on Isaac's estate administration papers. She must have had a friend or family member act as reader and scribe for her, perhaps her mother or her brother's friend, Isaac Dennis, whom she would later marry.

Isaac's diary records his work and responsibilities as the butler in Frank Haseltine's household. Among his many jobs was polishing the silver: "After breakfast today I cleaned silver for four hours" (Jan. 4); "I have cleaned silver again today. It seems that I am always at silver any more" (Feb. 3); and "I was out buying some things for Silver cleaning. I have cleaned silver all day" (Dec. 22). Serving three meals a day occupied a great deal of his work day as well as sweeping and cleaning the dining room or breakfast room to prepare for the next meal. Organizing dinner parties or luncheons for Mr. Haseltine also kept Isaac busy: "Mr. Haseltine is to have some friends to lonch at one Oclock. So I am hustling around lively" (Dec. 28). Making trips to the market, "I have been to the market and have spent a lot of money for Mr. Haseltine" (Mar. 26), and hand-delivering notes to Mr. Haseltine's friends provided a welcome excuse for Isaac to take a walk and visit his own friends while he was out.

Arranging for deliveries of coal and firewood and removal of ashes also fell under Isaac's purview. He oversaw special projects like the installation of a new carpet in Mr. Haseltine's room: "I went to Mr. Haseltine's room and got it ready for the men to put down the carpet. I remained there in the room with them all the while" (Jan. 9). Also, he prepared the cellar for whitewashing: "We are having the celler white washed. The men that are doing it I don't think that they know their business very well. I am very sorry that I let them touch it, to do it, for they have made a lot of work for me" (Oct. 17). A heavy snow in March gave Isaac a full day's work: "We have had quite adeep snow this morning, the greatest one of the season. So as soon as breakfast was over I began to shovel snow and I did not get throught until late in the afternoon" (Mar. 18).

Mr. Haseltine's household staff in 1892 also included two maids and a cook who were mentioned often in Isaac's diary: "I found Kate quite up in arms about something that had been said in next door about herself and Catherin" (Jan. 31). Kate McMenamin, the chambermaid, was an Irish immigrant who was still in the household for the 1910 census and whose name appeared in Mr. Haseltine's will of the same year. She and Isaac worked together for at least 18 years, and she corresponded with him during his summers away. The other maid, Catherine, may have been Catherine Rodden, also an Irish immigrant, who by the 1900 census was identified as the cook. Isaac and "the girls," as he called them, coordinated their personal schedules so that the house was not left unattended: "I stayed in tonight and let Catheren [go] to church" (Mar. 6). At the beginning of 1892, the cook was Mrs. Quinn; however, by October the household was without a cook: "I did not go to prayer meeting this morning not having any cook in the house I have to do the cooking" (Oct. 2). Mr. Haseltine seemed to have struggled to find a replacement and asked Isaac to find someone to fill in: "Mr. Haseltine wants me to get some one to come in by the day to cook the dinner for the present" (Oct. 11). Through his church contacts, he was able to find a Mrs. Wood to come in to "get the dinner for us as long as we might want her." A new cook, Sarah, came into the household at the end of November, but she and Isaac seemed not to have hit it off: "When I went to market today I asked Sarah if she would read up my table but she seems to have misunderstood me and is now very much put out about it. I think her quite odd and shall not have much to do with her hereafter. I want to get on with every body if they will let me" (Dec. 7).

Isaac Handy and his employer seemed to enjoy a cordial and respectful, if not especially warm, relationship. In every diary entry that mentions him, it is formally, as "Mr. Haseltine," never abbreviated in any way. Isaac was paid at the end of each month, which he generally recorded in his diary: "Mr. Haseltine paid me my wages and gave me five dollars over for extree work" (Nov. 1). In December, they had a disagreement although Isaac did not elaborate on the subject: "Mr. Haseltine and I had some words today. We talked and talked until we came to an understanding so it all ended well" (Dec. 10). Later that month, "Mr. Haseltine made me avery good offer today. He says that he will give me apare of shoes if I will give away the ones that I am now waring. He does not like them because they make a noice around the house" (Dec. 22). The household observed Christmas a few days later with gifts all around: "I have received some very nice things from Mr. Haseltine and the girls" (Dec. 25).

For the summer months of 1892, Frank Haseltine was in Europe: "Mr. Haseltine is to sail tomorrow for Europe" (May 6); "Up early today as I had to get the breakfast. Mr. Haseltine got off at 9 45. I went to the depot with him and saw him off" (May 7). During that time, Isaac had an agreement with another Philadelphia family, Dr. and Mrs. Jayne, to serve as butler in their summer house in Bar Harbor, Maine. It seems to have been a long-standing arrangement given Isaac's friendly relationship with the family and at least one of their household servants. In January, Isaac "went over to at Mrs. Jayne's. Kettie is going away on Thursday to be married I am going to get her something so she can remember me by" (Jan. 26). Isaac occasionally saw the Jaynes on the streets of Philadelphia.: "I saw Dr. Jayne this afternoon. I came neare falling on the St and he laughted at me and said that he expected that I would yet break my nick sometime" (Feb. 10). In June 1892, Isaac met with Mrs. Jayne to finalize plans for the trip to Bar Harbor by steamship with two other members of the Jaynes' staff, Lizzie and Hattie:

Saturday, June 18, 1892

I got up early today, as I haft to leave for Bar Harbor this morning. I went over to New York on the 8.20. I waited in New York from 10.45 until 5 oclock in the afternoon. Mrs. Jane sent us by water this season. I think that I am going to like it very much. Well I am now on the Steamship Winthrop. I have a very nice Steate room and everything seems lovely. There are quite alarge number of passengers on tonight I am enjoying it so far very much I hope I shall not be sea sick.

Sunday, June 19, 1892

Well I am still alive this morning and though it was some what rough last night I was not one bit sea sick. It is very foggy and cool today. I have stayed pretty much all day on deck. We have a lot of persons sick today though it is not rough Lizzie and Hattie both are sea sick, so sick were they that they could take no dinner. I enjoyed my dinner very much. Eating is about all there is to be done on a steamer and happy are they who can enjoyed eating such dinners as they give you on the Winthrop.

Upon their arrival on June 20, Isaac and "the girls" began in earnest to clean the Bar Harbor house from top to bottom in preparation for the Jaynes' arrival at the end of the month. The Jaynes arrived on June 29 along with two additional household staff members, Jesse and Maggie. Henry Montague, who kept the Jaynes' stable and drove their horses, was already at Bar Harbor with his family and the horses when Isaac arrived. It amounted to quite a substantial household staff, but with family and friends visiting the summer house and with the social requirements of a summer residence, they were all kept busy: "This is the day of Mrs. Jaynes tea. So I am very busey there is so much to be done that I cant see how I am to get through with everything" (Aug. 4). Mrs. Jayne held her "reception days" to receive callers on Wednesdays, requiring Isaac to greet visitors at the door and announce their arrival. He dutifully kept count of how many callers came each Wednesday, in numbers ranging from seven to 12. In addition to that duty, Isaac cleaned silver, cleaned and trimmed lamps, cleaned the dining room and the "piezza," set the table, served meals to the family, hand-delivered notes from Mrs. Jayne to her friends, and waited up for the last family member to come home from their evenings out: "Mr. Jayne and Mr. Paul are both out and I am to wait up for them. I am so slepy that I have to walk around to keep my eyes open" (Aug. 19).

There were times when other summer households needed some extra help for a big dinner party: "Mr. Roberts came to see me. He wants me to help with adinner tomorrow which I shall do I think" (Aug. 6). The next day, Isaac helped out with that dinner party and enjoyed a conversation with a colleague on his way home.:

Sunday, August 7, 1892

This is abeautiful day. I got up early but did but little before breakfast. I was at church this morning and agood sermon. This afternoon I stayed in and written some letters. Then I gotten myself ready and went down to Dr. Longstrerts and helped to serve to dinner. There were 12 persons at Table and things went off nicely. I did not get home until 12 Oclock. I made two dollars out of it. I had atalk with Mr. Blaine's man on my way home about The Mars. He seemed to be well informed about this planit so I found him quite interesting indeed.

While Isaac had a circle of friends and a church family in Bar Harbor, he dearly missed his friends and family in Philadelphia and Maryland. He relied on their letters to ease his loneliness and recorded each letter written or received: "This evening I got a letter from Dr. Wilson and he says that he has not heard from me. I cant tell why as I wrote him aweek ago. However I wrote him again tonight and went down to the village late to post it" (July 7); "I expected to receive some letters today but I did not ... my friends seem to have forgotten me all togather of late" (July 12); and finally, "I have received 7 letters this week" (July 23).

Isaac was an avid reader who kept up with newspapers throughout the year, but during his summers in Bar Harbor, he was also able to indulge in some leisure reading: "I am now reading a story called The moonstone and find it very interesting" (July 14); "I was to have gone to see Miss Moore this evening but Moonstone held me fast and I did not leave the cottage at all. There is such a thing as a good book being more enteresting than apertty woman" (July 19). The Moonstone, written in 1868 by British novelist Wilkie Collins, is considered the first detective novel written in the English language and is noted for Collins' enlightened treatment of the servants in the novel. Isaac also mentions reading The Bible and Saint's Rest, likely a reprint of the classic Christian devotional book, The Saint's Everlasting Rest, first published in 1650: "I have been reading Saint's rest today and like it so much that I can't help reading all the time" (Aug. 30).

The summer season was winding down in Bar Harbor by early September. Dr. Jayne left for Philadelphia on September 10 and several of "the girls" left on September 13. Mrs. Jayne was to stay a while longer and, with a short staff, Isaac assumed additional duties: "When I had finished my morning's work I cleaned the peazza and made chicken salad for lunch ... This afternoon I made a center piece for the table of flowers and it looked quite pertty" (Sept. 13). Henry Montague, his family, and the horses left on September 20. On September 29, the remainder of the household left for Philadelphia. Isaac returned by train and arrived in Philadelphia at 7:30 p.m. After having supper at the Jayne household, he went home to 1825 Walnut Street, where Frank Haseltine returned from his European trip the very next day.

Back in Philadelphia, the focus of Isaac's personal life continued to revolve around church, friends, and family. Of all the topics recorded in his diary, church and church activities claimed the most words by far. Isaac was so very involved with his church, the Allen Chapel, that he attended meetings, classes, or services there nearly every day of January 1892. In February, he wrote that "sometimes I think I am growing old fast because I care such alittle about going anywhere except to church" (Feb. 12). His involvement with church is not surprising given his father's leadership role in his own Tyaskin church. In 1881, George Handy was one of eight trustees of the Freedman's Methodist Church who purchased land to build their church, which is still an active congregation on Wetipquin Road. In Philadelphia, Isaac led Bible classes and collected contributions, which he recorded in the last few pages of his diary and then turned in to the church regularly. His detailed reports of church services, speakers, and their topics read like a who's who of the leaders of Philadelphia's African Methodist Episcopal Church in the late-19th century. In addition to leading Bible classes, Isaac served on various committees and was appointed to the National Emancipation Monument Association: "I do not know as yet what I am to do or what the duties are of the office" (Mar. 4). He also attended the regional conference in May, held at Mother Bethel Church in Philadelphia, where he saw a number of old friends from Baltimore. On February 14, he noted that a Mr. Richings spoke to the Sunday school, "awhite man but to our race he is a true man" (Feb. 14):

Sunday, May 1, 1892

Up quite early this morning and at prayer meeting. Gardener open not many out but agood meeting. at church again at 10.45. Rev. Wattson spoke. His sermon was most beautiful. The words of his tex were master, where Dwellth thou. There were six persons converted under the words. They were so powerfully spoken by the speaker. among those who received the blessing was Mr. A. Budd. Oh we have had a glorious time this day in Allen Chapel …

On Sunday afternoons between church services, Isaac made a habit of visiting the sick: "This afternoon I went to see Mrs. Gray who is ill in bed and when I left I gave her One dollar. She is a very poor woman with three children to care for and no one to help" (Feb. 3); "Afternoon, I have been going around seeing the sick. Called at five places. Found some of them much improved other, not so well" (Nov. 20).

Most of Isaac's friends were met through church, so those two worlds were closely aligned. He was a frequent evening visitor to fellow church members the Butlers, the Andersons, and the Brocks, spending the evening and often sharing dinner: "I like to go to the Andersons so much I expect they get tired of seeing me so often" (Oct. 3). Multiple services and meetings each Sunday left spare time in between to socialize with other church members. After his afternoon visits to the sick on a Sunday in October, Isaac "came back to brother Butlers and had supper with him and family" (Oct. 23) before returning to church for the evening service. It was neither unusual nor frowned upon for friends to visit Isaac at the Haseltine household: "This afternoon Mr. Brock came in to see me awhile" (Nov. 1).

Isaac often lent money to friends: "Mr. Brock. . .wanted $25.00 twenty five dollars for 2 months I let him have it. I am very fon of him so it is easy for me to oblidge him" (Feb. 17). A more casual acquaintance from church, Mr. King, tried to sell Isaac a house for $1,000: "I loan D. King $100.00 one hundred dollars today he wants me to buy one of his houses out in Darby but I shall waite awhile and see first" (Oct. 6). After much consideration, Isaac declined to buy the property. He had always been cautious with his money: "I have been and taken my money out of the Investing Co. of Phila. I have been afraid of it so, I thought it better to get out of it at once" (Feb. 15).

Another friend, referred to only as J.E.H. throughout most of Isaac's diary, was an admired neighbor not associated with the church. Isaac noted the times he saw or spoke with him and they exchanged letters, even though they lived only a block or two away from one another: "I had aletter from my friend J.E.H. this morning He sent me the last five dollars that he was owing me. And the letter read beautifully" (Mar. 2). In November's presidential election, Isaac "voted the streat Republican ticket. I have never voted anything else in my life as yet and never shall" (Nov. 8). In the next day's diary entry, Isaac gave a name to his friend J.E.H: "before I could see apaper J.E. Howard called to me and told me that Cleavland was elected. I could not believe at all at first however I soon had to. And I am very sorry" (Nov. 9). This may well have been the same J.E. Howard who appeared in the 1880 census on Sixteenth Street as a boarder, white male, and a retired doctor. He would have been 74 years old in 1892.

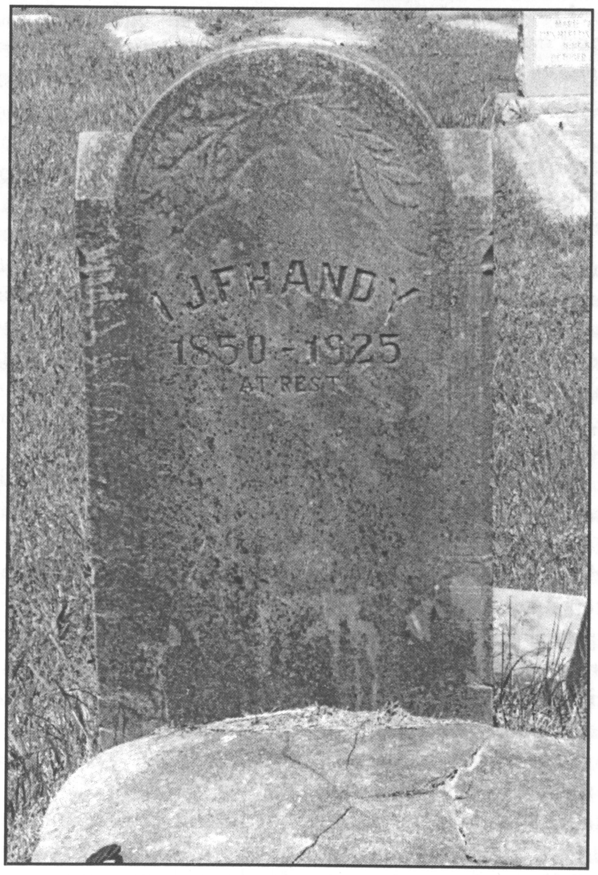
Isaac never married, but at the age of 42 when he wrote this diary, he was giving it some consideration, perhaps at the urging of his church friends: "Mrs. Davenger, Mrs. Woodland and Mrs. Bree all got on me about not marrying, but I think I held my own with them all" (Jan. 12); "After church I went home with Cashus Harris and had a long talk with him. He thinks I ought to marry" (Feb. 21). One of those friends may have had her own interests in mind. After attending a reception held by Mrs. Woodland, Isaac recorded his thoughts: "I think that Mrs. Woodland is some what gone on a I.J.F. Handy. Poor thing. I am so sorry for her. But not in the way she would like I fear. I am afearaid that Miss Cooper has the inside trick" (Mar. 11). As it turned out, Mrs. Woodland married Isaac's friend Mr. Washington in October 1892. Isaac attended the wedding and reported, "I think that I have seen the bride look better many a time" (Oct. 6). Back in August, he had written, "I am thinking strongly now about getting my self married and sitteling down and make ahome for myself. However I dare say by tomorrow I will changed my mind to some else" (Aug. 2). And so he must have done.

At the close of the year 1892, Isaac wrote: "Well this is the last day's writing in this diary. I have been trying to do lots of things today but have rally did nothing much. I was at Wanamakers and bough a diary for 93 … I have attended watch meeting and afterwords went home with bro Butler and stayed the rest of the night" (Dec. 31).

In 1894, two years after this diary was written, Isaac purchased a tract of land in Tyaskin, 217 acres with access to Tyaskin Creek on the west side. The plat shows no structures on the property, which was across the creek from the location of Isaac's father's house. Now a landowner in Wicomico County, Isaac's name appeared on a public notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser* of July 9, 1898, when the county commissioners laid out a road "running through the lands of Isaac Handy, colored" as well as those of other land owners.

J.F HANDY
1850-1925

Isaac Handy's gravesite at Freedman's Methodist Church.



According to the 1900 and 1910 census records, Isaac remained in Philadelphia working for Frank Haseltine until Frank's death in July 1910 at the age of 71. The inventory of his estate, valued at over $390,000, reflected an opulently decorated home with a sizable collection of fine and decorative arts. In Mr. Haseltine's will, he left all of his paintings and drawings to Mary K. Bent, his executrix and cousin on his mother's side. He also left a number of items to his cousin in Rome, the Princess Rospigliosi (nee Mildred Haseltine), the daughter of the artist. To his household staff, he left $2,000 each for Isaac, Kate, and Catherine. He also left his personal clothing to Isaac, who had admired his wardrobe back in 1892: "Mr. Haseltine has gotten himself avery fine warbrobe. He is getting a lot of fine things of late" (Nov. 23).

After Mr. Haseltine's death, Isaac returned to Tyaskin, purchasing a second property in February 1911, which consisted of 40 acres not far from his acreage on Tyaskin Creek. Possibly this second purchase included a dwelling for Isaac to move into right away. In 1919, Isaac sold that 40 acres. The 1920 census taken in Tyaskin listed Isaac as head of household on Green Hill-Tyaskin Road. Living with him were Samuel, his much-younger brother; Emma, his sister-in-law; Franklin, his nephew; and Susan, his niece. Isaac apparently kept his diaries accessible in the house. Samuel's signature, "Samuel O. Handy Tyaskin," appears here and there throughout Isaac's diary, written in pencil as if in practice.

Now back home in Tyaskin, Isaac began participating in his church and community. In *The Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper of December 8, 1917, it was reported that representatives of the 15 districts of Wicomico met on November 27 and organized into a colored section of the Council of Defense of Wicomico County. Among the district chairmen was "Isaac Handy, Tyaskin." During the 1910s, Isaac and Samuel became involved with the Independent Order of St. Luke, a national African-American fraternal organization dedicated to the social and economic well-being of the black community. The Order achieved that mission through education, membership development, real estate and business financing, and by providing life and disability insurance for its members. In a deed made on January 24, 1920, Isaac and Samuel Handy, along with Mary Dashields, were named as trustees of the "Handy Star Council #1047, Tyaskin, Maryland, a local lodge of the Independent Order of St. Luke," as they purchased a tract of land in Tyaskin, presumably for a future lodge building.

In December 1920, Isaac sold 153 acres of his 1894 land purchase. The following December, he moved to Princess Anne, Somerset County, to live with his sister, Eliza Dennis, perhaps because of failing health. He died on August 4, 1925. Samuel served as administrator for his older brother's estate. In the estate's administration document, Eliza was compensated for boarding and laundry for Isaac from December 11, 1921, to August 3, 1925, including the extra cost of special attention rendered in nursing Isaac during his last five weeks. Isaac's surviving siblings each received a fifth of his remaining estate, which was valued at $5,570 in total, and the five children of his late sister Martha Wilson each received a one-twenty-fifth share. His estate also paid for the handsome monument inscribed simply, "I.J.F. Handy/ 1850-1925/ At Rest" that was placed at his burial site in Freedman's Methodist Church cemetery.

The survival of Isaac J.F. Handy's little diary from 1892 is just as extraordinary as the story that it tells. His life's journey from a Tyaskin farm boy to a butler managing the households of Philadelphia's and Bar Harbor's social elite and a pillar of his church community gives testimony to Isaac's innate abilities and intelligence, as well as his love for learning and his strong commitment to his church and the values of his faith.

Lee Ellen Griffith is a volunteer at the Nabb Center and a member of its board of directors.

Documenting Dorchester County: The Bayly Family's Multi-Generational History

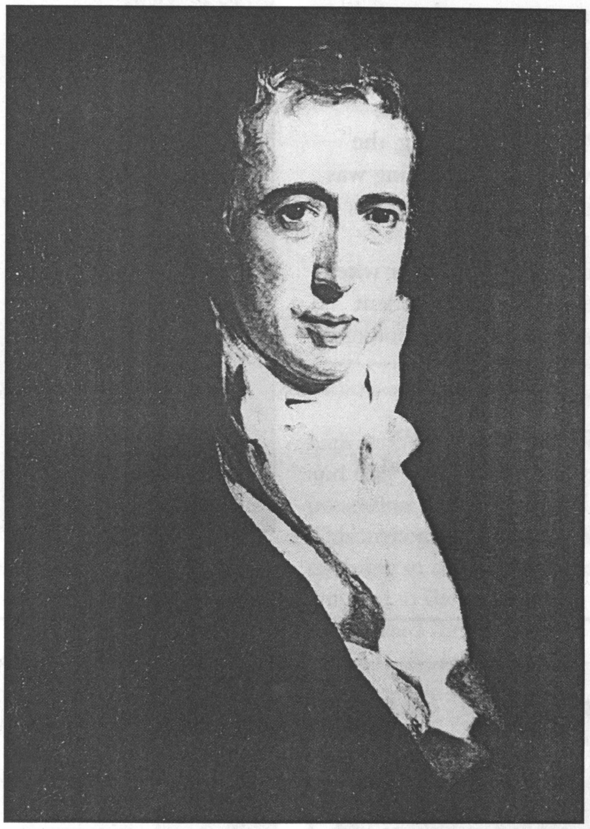
By Leslie M. Van Veen McRoberts, Local History Archivist

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Bayly family of Dorchester County was associated with the legal profession, medicine and commerce. The Nabb Center is fortunate to have in its local archives a substantial and newly processed collection that documents multiple generations of the Bayly family. Family papers spanning the years from the Revolutionary era through the early 20th century provide valuable insights into transformative periods of American history and they offer unique opportunities to study changes on the Eastern Shore. It is rare to have a collection in such excellent condition and that covers so much history.

Josiah Bayly led a long career as a lawyer and judge in Dorchester County. Extensive correspondence, legal receipts and over 75 docket books detail the types of cases Josiah Bayly participated in from 1794-1839, and they offer a window into the legal world of the 19th century. Josiah Bayly worked on a variety of legal cases throughout the Eastern Shore and he served as Maryland's Attorney General from 1831-1846.

Josiah and Anne Bayly's son, Alexander Hamilton Bayly, chose the medical field, becoming one of the region's most renowned physicians. Dr. Bayly's patient logs, 1835-1864, record the variety of patients he visited providing, details about age, gender and race, although he rarely noted the condition he was treating. Also, we are able to deduce that Dr. Bayly charged $1 for day-time service, while he charged $2 for nighttime visits and service. When he administered quinine, it would cost the patient an additional $0.50. He noted who had paid their bill and who had outstanding receipts with him. Additional secondary sources tell us the scope of his practice, but these accounts provide details that illuminate the depth and breadth of his career as a physician.

Along with the extensive legal papers and medical logs, the Bayly collection also includes an interesting set of educational items documenting the family's schooling through a variety of notebooks, course catalogs and scrapbooks that span multiple generations. Typically, paper materials produced by children do not endure. Families often dispose of books and papers that children used in their education. Because children often add their own "annotations," such as doodles and signatures to workbooks and other school materials, parents often toss such items in the trash. Materials from the childhood of Josiah Bayly, Dr. Alexander Hamilton Bayly and his children include handmade scrapbooks, drawings and early education readers. The family clearly valued the benefits of formal education in a period of Maryland history that saw little in the way of educational standardization. Published works of fiction and non-fiction, as well as newspapers reveal that they were exposed to a variety of topics and contextual ideas.


Josiah Bayly 1769-1846, Maryland Historical Society

Correspondence was key to maintaining core family relationships; extensive letters written between Dr. Bayly, his wife, Delia and their children document their lives during the American Civil War. Most notable is the correspondence between multiple family members, including father, mother and siblings, to J. Washington E. Bayly (J.W.E. Bayly) while he resided in Louisville, Kentucky. J.W.E. married Fanny Tyler of Louisville and relocated to the "River City." It was from Louisville, during the war, that J.W.E. Bayly wrote to his father and described the strain on the local people due to shortages of goods and food. The letters do not speak in great detail about the actuality of war, but they convey J.W.E. Bayly's longing for the comforts of his childhood home and his concerns about the goings on of the family.

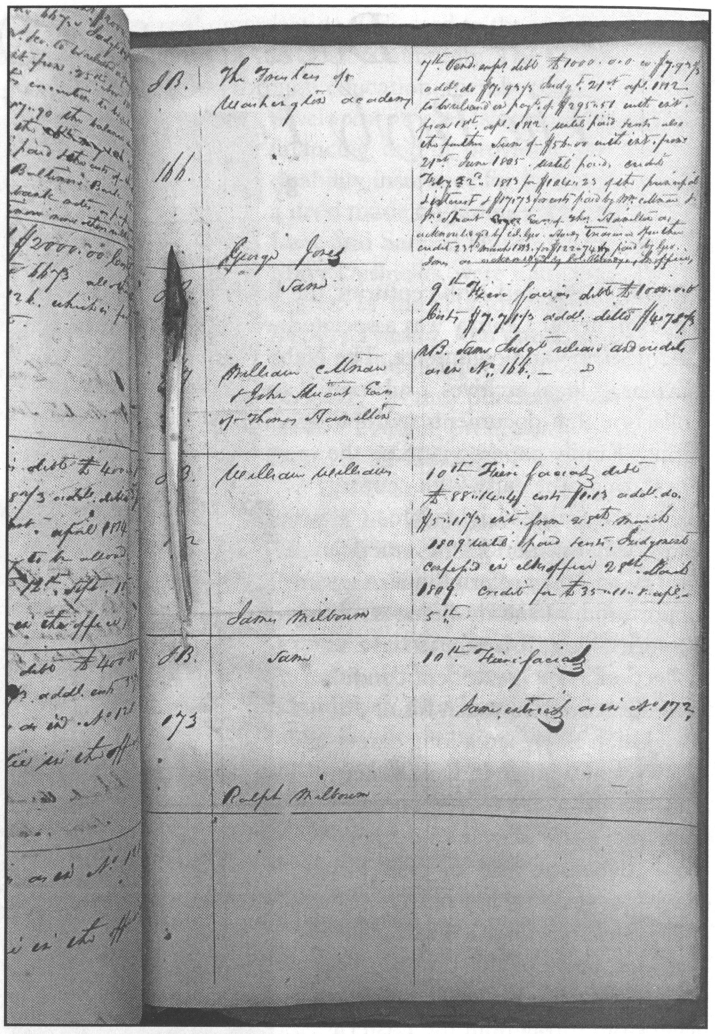
The Bayly Papers also include the extensive genealogical work performed in the early 20th century by Delia Eccleston Bayly. Delia, daughter of Edgar Bayly and granddaughter of Dr. Alexander Hamiton Bayly, spent much of her later years ensuring the family pedigree was well-intact. Delia would write to genealogist Stratton Nottingham of Onancock, Virginia, to document the family, and she became a member of the Society of Colonial Dames.

Acquiring and Documenting Dorchester History

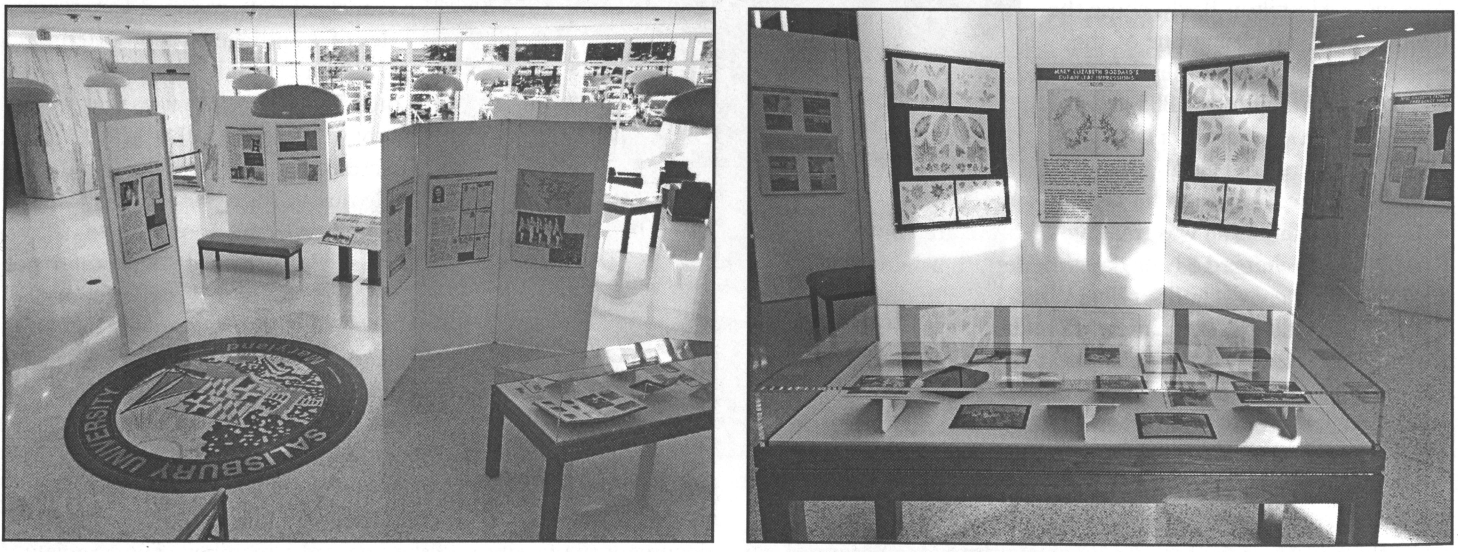
In 2009, Josiah Bayly's great, great, great grandson David Orem made the first donation of the family's papers to the Nabb Center, providing us with an open window to this interesting Eastern Shore family. Further conversations between Dr. G. Ray Thompson, former Nabb Research Center director, and Mr. Orem led to the acquisition of additional records, which included a considerable volume of correspondence (over 650 pages) and law records pertaining to Josiah Bayly. This second donation of the Bayly family's papers was made to the Nabb Center in December 2015. The additional five boxes required the Nabb Center's local history archivist to re-visit the original donation, asking a series of questions. How do these material sets fit together? How can we best utilize the records to make them available for our patrons? In what condition are the family papers? Of course, the Nabb Center was very excited to receive these additional papers and to expand the scope of the collection.

The new records, like the original deposit of materials, clearly were in impeccable condition. Physically speaking, the actual paper had not oxidized, the ink was clear and fading was minimal. One of the new boxes required the legal documents housed inside to be unfolded, and because of the stable condition of the materials, the paper did not crack or tear when this painstaking process took place. The archivist and student assistants labeled all items and housed them in acid-free folders. These treatments, in conjunction with our temperature-controlled storage space, will allow for the materials to be stabilized and accessed by patrons for generations to come.

To visit our online database and access the finding aid of this collection, search for Bayly Family papers at: https://libapps.salisbury.edu/nabb-archives/.



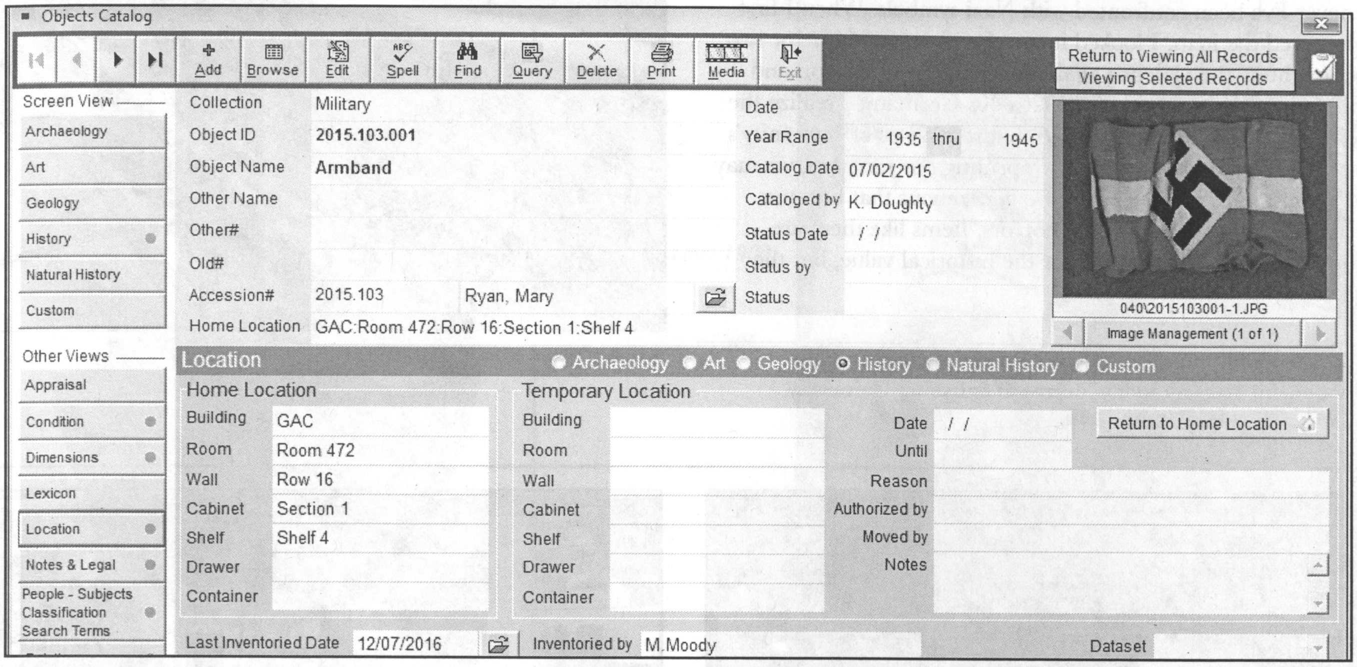
Bayly Docket Book



"Traveling Through Special Collections: Vignettes of Voyages & Travel" Guerrieri Academic Commons, 1st Floor Lobby

Reflecting on the Past and Future: Artifacts at the Nabb Center

By Malcolm Moody



Collection Military
Object ID **2015.103.001**
Object Name **Armband**
Other Name
Other#
Old#
Accession# 2015.103 Ryan, Mary
Home Location GAC:Room 472:Row 16:Section 1:Shelf 4
Date
Year Range 1935 thru 1945
Catalog Date 07/02/2015
Cataloged by K. Doughty
Status Date / /
Status by
Status
040\2015103001-1.JPG
Image Management (1 of 1)

Location ○ Archaeology ○ Art ○ Geology ● History ○ Natural History ○ Custom

Home Location
Building GAC
Room Room 472
Wall Row 16
Cabinet Section 1
Shelf Shelf 4
Drawer
Container

Temporary Location
Building
Room
Wall
Cabinet
Shelf
Drawer
Container

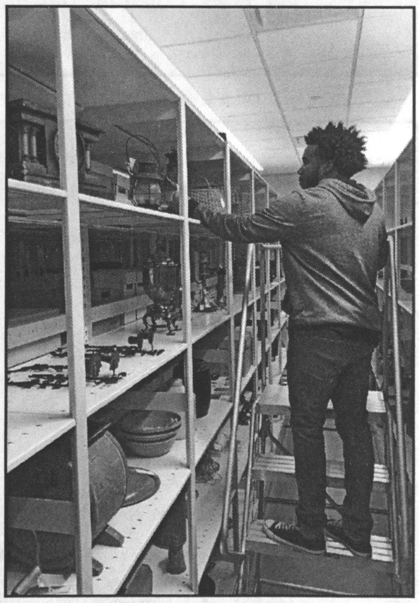
Date / /
Until
Reason
Authorized by
Moved by
Notes

Last Inventoried Date 12/07/2016 Inventoried by M.Moody
Dataset

Screenshot of PastPerfect record

I've been working at the Nabb Center for over four years as part of a work-study program that has exposed me to a variety of different projects. The most recent project involves helping with the process of conducting an inventory to verify and accurately record the location of the artifacts in the Nabb Center collection. The database record in PastPerfect has a location tab that allows the user to enter the building, room, wall, cabinet, shelf, drawer and container – to give a clear and detailed location for an object. Nabb Center employees use this information to quickly locate an object if it needs to be pulled for a class or patron, used in an exhibit, or referenced when updating information in the database. Down every row, I encounter a variety of items spanning different decades. Some rows hold military uniforms from World War II, others have kitchen utensils that have not been used in decades, while yet others hold objects used by businesses from the Delmarva region.

Some of the objects I have come across during this project have left a deep impression on me and my view of the past. I found one of the items in the military row most interesting and powerful as I reflected on its history and meaning both past and present. Located in row 16 of artifact storage lays a Nazi swastika armband. The armband was donated in 2015 by Mary Ryan and belonged to Louis F. Collins. Louis Franklin Collins was born in Powellville, Maryland, on September 18, 1918, to Maggie and Charley Collins. Louis joined the United States Army on May 17, 1943, and was part of the Anti-Tank Co. 156th Infantry. He was honorably discharged in 1943 and returned to school to earn his high school diploma. He went on to marry Irene Culver Collins, and they had one daughter, Anne Collins. Louis likely came in possession of this armband while serving overseas during WWII. This armband holds a lot of history. The swastika holds sacred meaning in several world religions. The Nazi party adopted this emblem in the 1920s; it symbolized the party's belief in the myth that the "German race" traced its origins to the Aryans. The Nazis began placing the swastika on publications, propaganda posters and their uniform armbands. According to the Holocaust Encyclopedia website History of the Swastika, it was "a potent symbol intended to elicit pride among Aryans." It also became a symbol of Nazi racial ideology that called for the elimination of Jews and other groups deemed inferior.



Malcolm Moody working in Nabb's artifact storage

With the history behind the Nazi armband, I could not help but consider how the ideas it represented are antithetical to many of us in the contemporary world, yet it is clear from recent events that some have clung to this view of the world. Judging, persecuting and segregating groups based on arbitrary characteristics like skin color and ethnicity deemed inferior by the state are the ideas that usually come to mind whenever I've been confronted with Nazi symbols. When I first encountered the item, I looked it over for about a minute or two as I thought of the violence against the Jewish population and other minority communities in 1920s-40s Germany. I realize the benefits of keeping objects around that remind us of humanity's lowest acts. In the hopes of never repeating our mistakes, we may need a constant reminder for future generations that become increasingly alienated from past horrors. Items like these are important to preserve not only for the historical value, but the messages they convey to us all.

Malcolm worked at the Nabb Center several semesters while completing his undergraduate degree at Salisbury University. He graduated in May 2018.

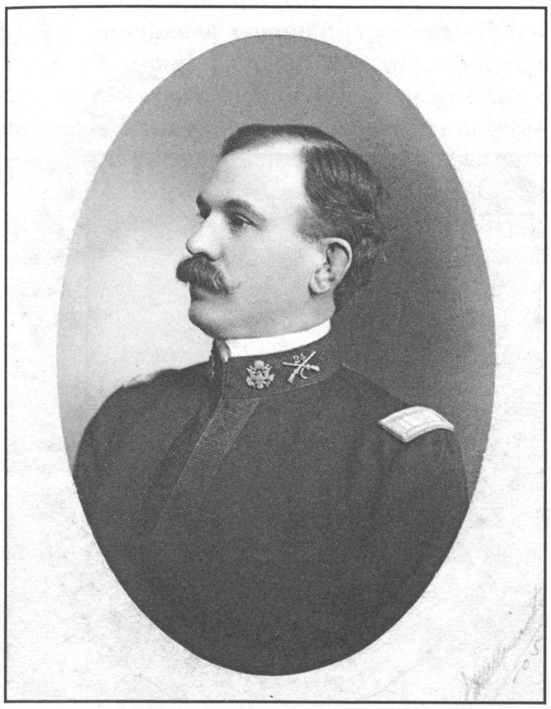
Military related artifacts, Nabb Center collection

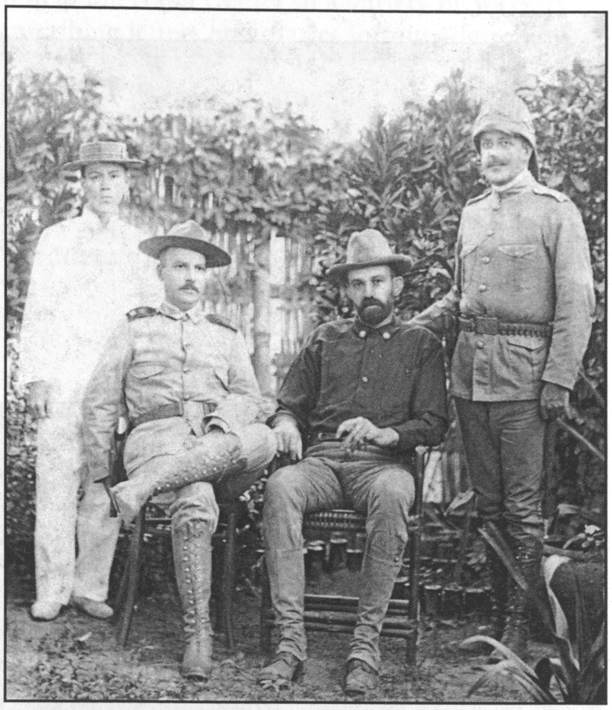
OVER HERE
AND
THE WORLD AT WAR • 1914-1918
OVER THERE:
U.S. NAVY
War Bonds
Public Food Administration
REGISTRATION DAY

"Over Here and Over There: The World at War, 1914-1918" Guerrieri Academic Commons, Thompson Gallery

The Extraordinary Career of Captain Albert Laws

By Kenneth Forest





Right: Albert Laws 1900. Seated on left.

Left: Albert Laws 1905

The Nabb Research Center houses the papers of a noteworthy veteran from Delmarva. Albert Laws was born in Wango, in Wicomico County, Maryland on August 6, 1868. He was educated at Salisbury High School and received an appointment to West Point. He graduated in 1893 and was commissioned a lieutenant in the 24th Infantry. The 24th was one of the original four Buffalo Soldier regiments, composed of white officers and African American enlisted soldiers.

Laws saw action in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. He was wounded and cited for bravery at the Battle of San Juan Hill. "He was wounded on the firing lines and had the right to leave the field," recalled a fellow officer. "He retired to the rear, had his wounds dressed, and returned to the firing line where bullets were falling thick as hail. He was a splendid officer and a true man." (Capt. Nelson quoted in "The Death of Capt. Albert Laws," N. Price Turner, Albert Laws papers)

In 1899, Laws was temporarily commissioned a major in the 35th Volunteer Infantry. He was involved in counterinsurgency operations during the Philippine-American War and participated in the Battle of Macahambus Hill. Fighting in a controversial and unpopular war, Laws nevertheless distinguished himself. His commanding officer thanked him for his service: "The loyalty and faithfulness you have displayed, and the thoroughly satisfactory manner in which you have performed your duties has not only been a source of satisfaction to me, but has won my esteem and gratitude." (Letter, Colonel E. H. Plummer to Albert Laws, 1901, Albert Laws papers)

In 1901, the 35th was mustered out and Laws returned to the regular army as a captain. In spite of illnesses contracted during his deployments, Laws also served on posts in Ohio, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, California, and New York. He returned to the Philippines twice and was again cited for bravery under fire. "The more I learned of him and knew him, the better I liked him," wrote another fellow officer. (Letter, Major A. Markley to Mrs. Cornelia Laws, 1908, Albert Laws papers)

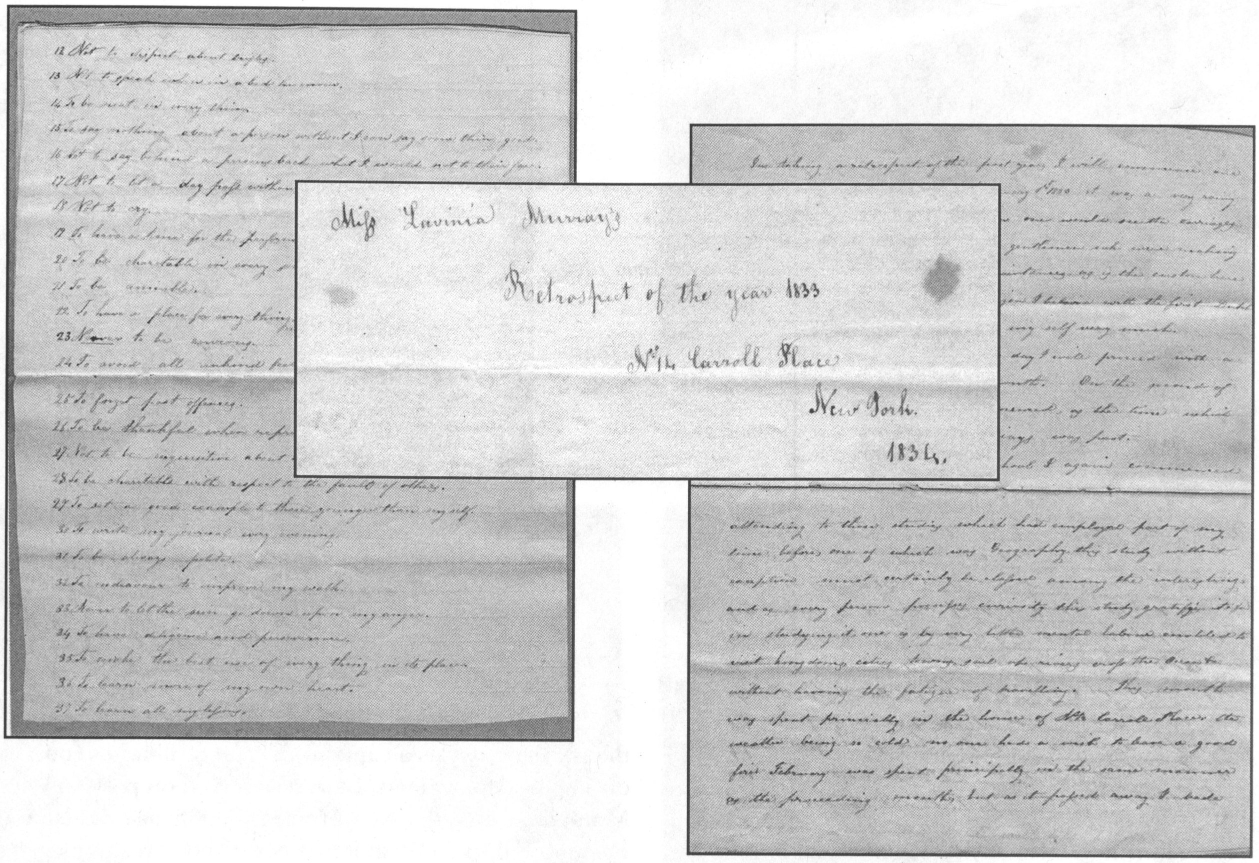
Tragically, Laws suffered an accidental fall and died on April 3, 1908. He was laid to rest in the family cemetery in Wango. The epitaph on his tombstone reads: "My country, may it always be right, but right or wrong my country."

The Albert Laws papers were donated to the Nabb Research Center by his nephew, Victor Laws, and his niece, Margaret Laws Engle. The collection documents his extraordinary career through letters, reports, photographs, and artifacts. Among his papers was discovered a proclamation signed by Emilio Aguinaldo, the first president of the Philippines. Laws was an enthusiastic collector, and he brought home a variety of militaria and souvenirs, which are also a part of the collection. The Albert Laws papers can be accessed by visitors to the Center on the fourth floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons.

Kenneth Forest is graduate assistant at the Nabb Research Center.

Lavinia Murray 1833

By Margaret Long



Miss Lavinia Murray's

Retrospect of the year 1833

No 14 Carroll Place

New York.

1834.

Lavinia Murray's Retrospect of 1833 delves into a fantastic year for a 16-year-old girl who went to a boarding school in New York City. This retrospect, while only 23 pages long, has a rich history providing a catalog of events happening throughout New York in 1833.

Lavinia was born on December 17, 1818, in New Jersey, but lived at 14 Carroll Place in New York City when she wrote her retrospect. After finishing school, Murray married a New York City merchant named James M. Hoagland in 1847. Lavinia died in 1896 and is buried next to her husband at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Lavinia Murray attended Van Doren's Institute for Young Ladies during the 1830s, a period of her life that she covers in detail in her retrospect. Along with some discussion of her studies, she wrote a lot about other young girls who attended the Institute with her, including two young ladies from South America. At one point, Murray wrote that one of her fellow students had passed from smallpox.

Lavinia began her retrospect by mentioning the previous New Year and describing men and women calling upon one another to give their respects, a practice not known to many in today's society. The retrospect allows one to peer into New York's past, as Lavinia recounts her life in the city, which included a trip to the New York House of Refuge and seeing President Andrew Jackson riding down Broadway at the head of a military parade.

Murray detailed her visit to the House of Refuge and explained how it operated. She mentioned that there were more boys living in the house than girls and that the House differentiated between the best and worst children. Lavinia explained that the House enacted a badge system in which children deemed better wore white badges, while children deemed worse wore brass badges. After visiting the House of Refuge, Lavinia mentioned that she joined the Temperance movement. She did not delve into this decision, but simply stated she joined the group.

Lavinia's retrospect ended with 50 New Year's Resolutions that were based around scripture, obeying her parents, keeping tidy, and continuing her studies.

Other fascinating documents similar to this retrospective can be found in the Special Collections at the Nabb Center.

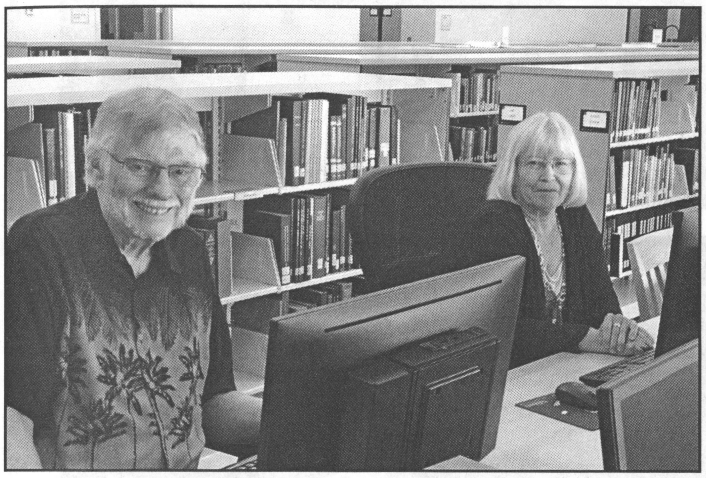
Margaret Long was a graduate assistant at the Nabb Research Center working with our archivists processing various archival collections. She graduated in May 2018 with her M.A. in history.

Volunteers

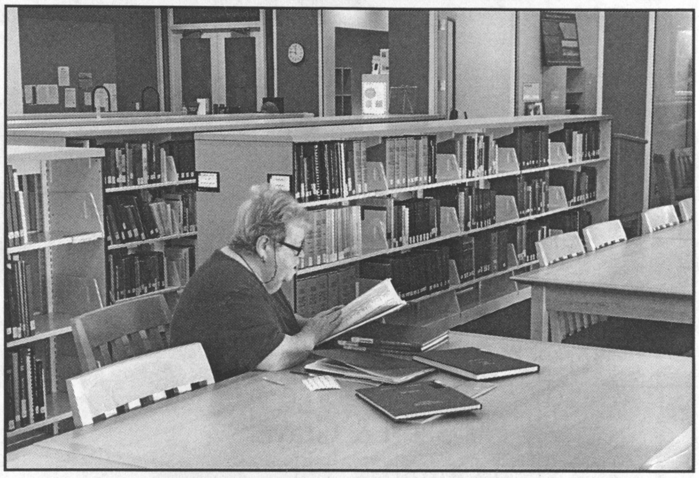
We thank all our volunteers for the wonderful work they do to help the Nabb Center in a variety of ways. A number of community volunteers have been working on transcribing letters and diaries for our "Traveling Through Special Collections: Vignettes of Voyages and Travel" exhibit. Other projects have included helping with the quilt exhibits, transcribing other documents, scanning, sorting archival materials, assisting patrons, and performing research requests. Some of the volunteers are pictured here.

Our current cadre of volunteers include Bill Collison, Frank Rhodes, Cathy Hudson, Jane Burt, Lee Ellen Griffith, Mary Starnes, Diane Langeler, Eileen Marx, Barb Stetzer, Lisa Chase, Gerry Wood, Victoria Christie-Healy, Bernadette Knoblaugh, Sharon Walsh, Rosemary Heher, Tom Spain, Kathleen Spain, Susan Hughes, John Watke, and Michael Healy.

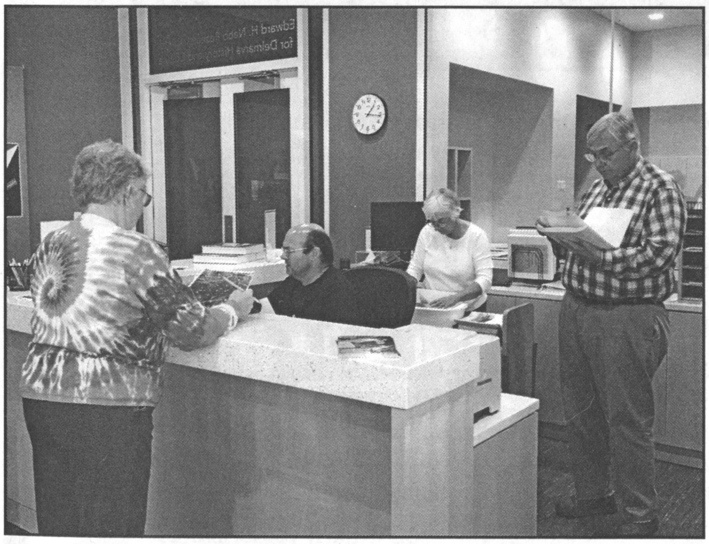
We are very grateful for their assistance and dedication.



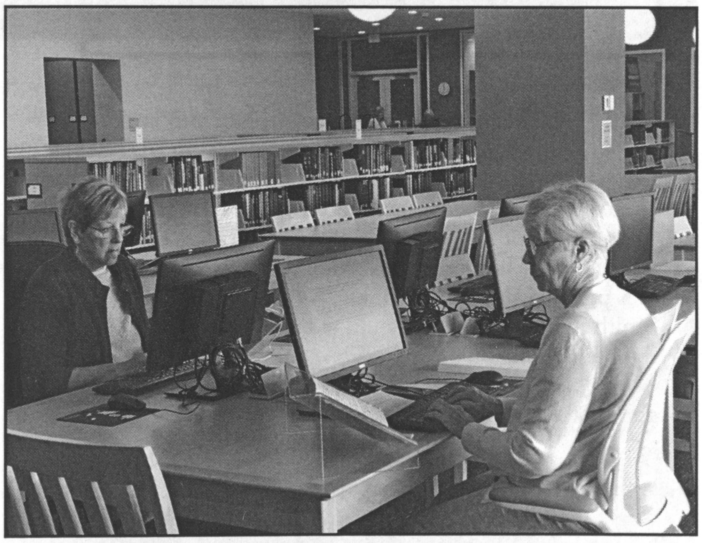
John Watke and Susan Hughes transcribing items from SU Archives Special Collections.



Cathy Hudson researching family history for a DAR application.

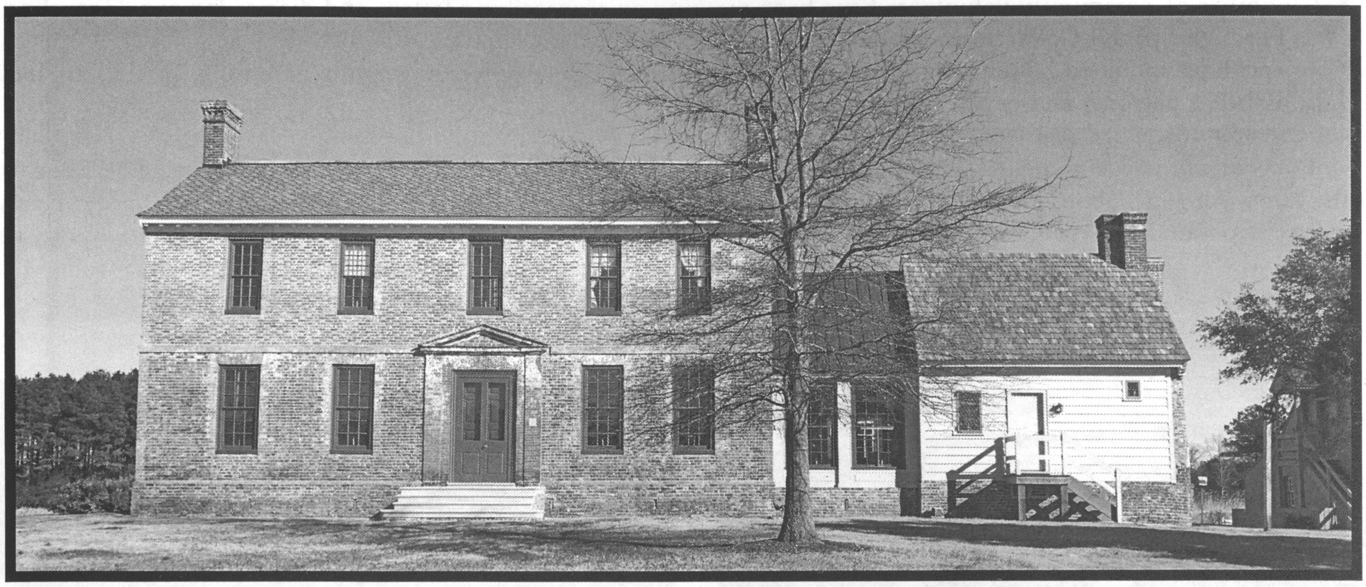


Community volunteers and staff helping to identify photographs from the Walt Thurston collection, from left Jane Burt, Aaron Horner, Pat Taylor, and Frank Rhodes.



Bernadette Knoblaugh and Eileen Marx transcribing items from SU Archives Special Collections.

Pitts Neck Event



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Nabb's fundraising event took place this year at the historic home known as Pitts Neck on Virginia's eastern shore. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the venue offered visitors the rare opportunity of seeing the ongoing restoration of this unique 18th-century home that is located near the Pocomoke River. It is possible that the land may have been visited by John Smith in 1608 as he came up the Pocomoke. This area, near the confluence of the Pocomoke River and Chesapeake Bay, would have been a center of activity for Native Americans and of commerce for the settlers who followed

The home sits on part of the original 1,000-acre tract of land granted to Robert Pitt in 1663 by Charles II; it had originally been within the bounds the Calverts claimed for Maryland. The older portion of the house was probably built near the end of the 17th century by Robert Pitt II. The middle portion of the Georgian dwelling was built c. 1730; while the back part of the house was built in the late 20th century. The property was passed down through various members of the Pitt family until Ann Pitt Beard Hall sold what was then a 170-acre plantation to Thomas H. Joynes in 1834. Other owners followed and the house underwent many interior changes. Harry F. Bell, the great-grandfather of the current owner, Wayne Williams, purchased the property in 1897. Major restoration and preservation of the older sections of the house are now taking place.

Nabb's board of directors thanks all those who helped make this event a success: Wayne Williams, owner of the property who was extremely generous with his time and support; sponsors; auction donors; other contributors shown here; as well as Nabb's staff, students, and community helpers.

The event also offered the opportunity to present the Wilcolm E. Washburn Delmarva History Prize to Jessica McInerney for her excellent research resulting in her thesis "Living As An Empowered Weak: 17th Century Women in the Chesapeake and Gender Norms."

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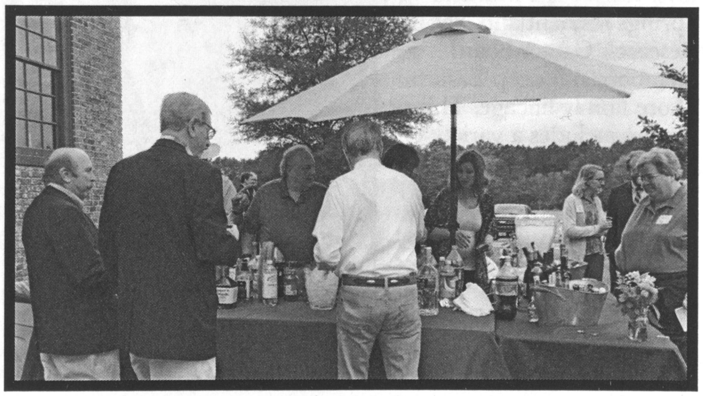
From left, Director of Nabb Research Center Creston Long, Nabb Board member William Wilson, Nabb Board Chair Mike Hitch, and Wayne Williams, who was the host of the event. Williams is receiving a framed drawing of his Pitts Neck home done by William Wilson.

Salisbury
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
Awarded to
Ms. Jessica McInerney

Creston Long awarding the Wilcolm E. Washburn Delmarva History Prize to Jessica McInerney.



Events and Exhibits

Exhibit: *SU Libraries Exhibit: Traveling Through Special Collections: Vignettes of Voyages and Travel*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, 1st Floor Lobby
September 27-December 19
Open During GAC Hours

Voyage with travelers of the past through vignettes of the special collections at the Nabb Research Center. Diaries, photographs, letters, drawing, and ephemera tell the fascinating stories of people from across the world throughout time. These unique historical documents demonstrate the common reasons for travelling, as well as the advances in transportation technology over the past 200 years.

Exhibit: *Over Here and Over There: The World at War, 1914-1918*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Thompson Gallery
August 27-December 19
Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

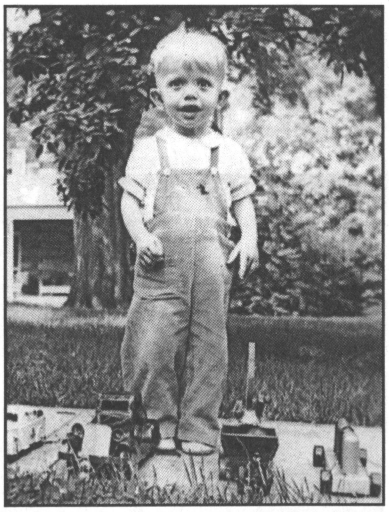
To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the Nabb Research Center highlights certain aspects of the war, including humanitarian efforts, the role of women and African Americans, local troops, propaganda, leisure and entertainment, and the lasting effects that soldiers endured. Archival materials and objects from the Nabb Research Center's collection supplement and enhance the history of the Great War.

Exhibit: *Delmarva: People, Place and Time*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, 4th Floor Niemann Gallery
Open During GAC Hours.

This self-guided exhibit highlights various aspects of Delmarva history, including Native Americans and early settlers, agriculture and water, and an early 19th century home. Updated with new materials and objects for the fall 2018 semester.

Exhibit: *The Toys that Built an Engineer …*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, 1st Floor Lobby
October 29-December 19
Open During GAC Hours

Reminisce about your childhood and how times have changed as you enjoy this display compiled of Charles Emery's childhood toys. Emery is a Mardela Springs resident and Nabb Research Center board member, with deep Eastern Shore family lineage. This display includes a variety of toys dating from the 1930s to 1950s that were wrapped in newspaper and stored in the family attic since 1965 until recently unpacked during a move.

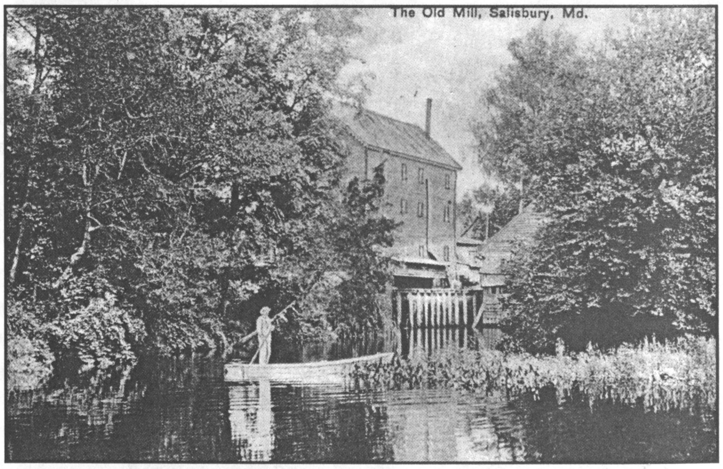


Workshop: *Creative Writing Workshop with Special Collections*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Nabb Center Classroom (4th floor)
Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m.-Noon

Travel through time and place with a creative writing workshop at the Nabb Research Center. Led by Salisbury University history and English faculty and using the Center's unique historical collections, attendees will discover diarists who have traveled over the past 200 years and will follow the journeys of history's artists and photographers. These original materials will spark inspiration for the writers who will then recreate or reinterpret examples from the library's Special Collections.
To register call 410-543-6312.

Lecture: *Mill Ponds and Dam Sites*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Assembly Hall
Wednesday, November 14, 7 p.m.

Michael Folkoff, SU professor emeritus of geography, shares his multi-year research on local dam sites and mill ponds.



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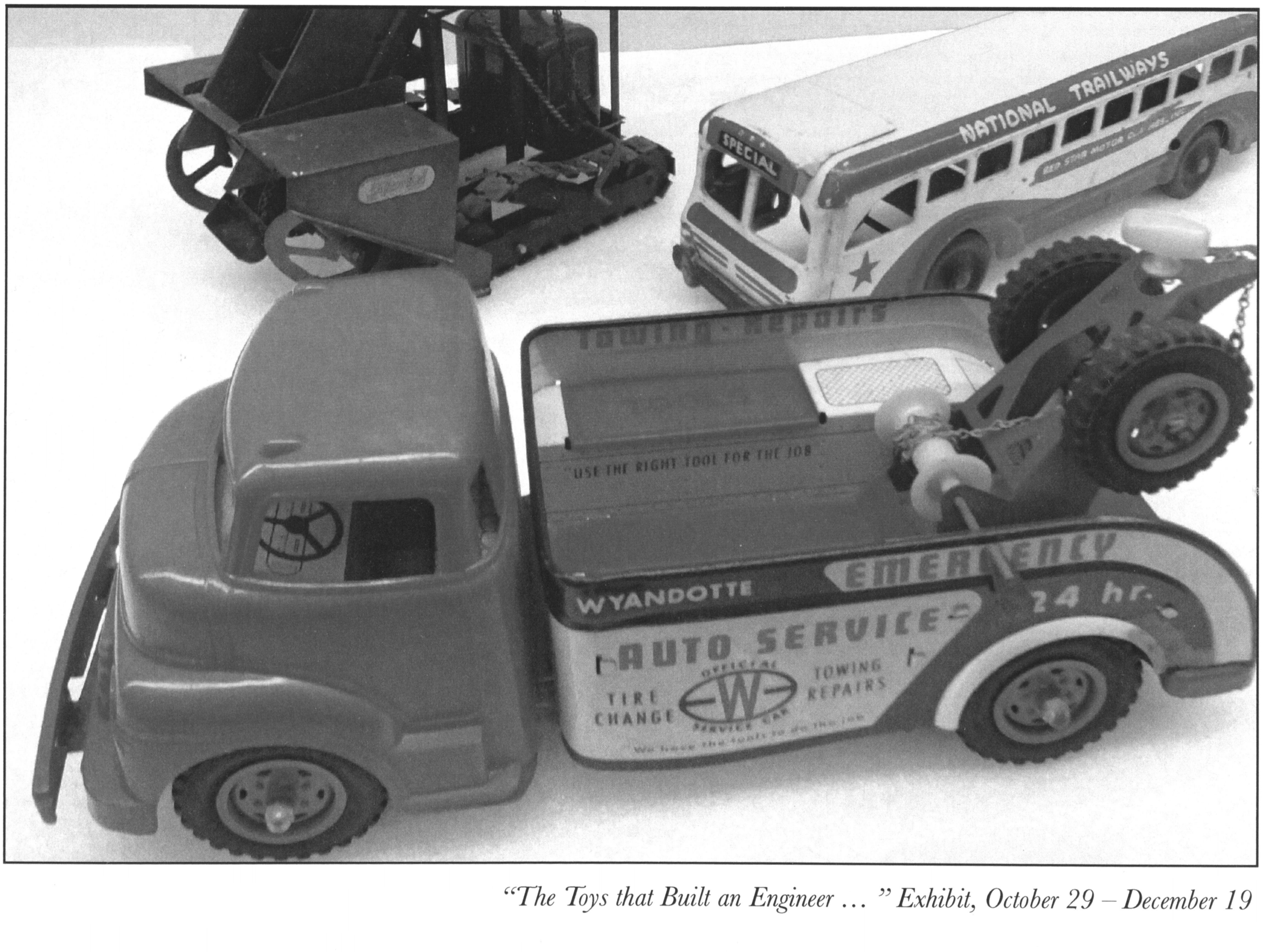
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